

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 9, 2007 MINUTES

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, at 8:30 AM in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

Beth Ward, Chairman
Mark Owens, Jr., Vice Chairman
Eugene James, Commissioner
Tom Coulson, Commissioner
Jimmy Garris, Commissioner
Melvin McLawhorn, Commissioner
Kenneth Ross, Commissioner
Tom Johnson, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent:

David Hammond, Commissioner

Staff present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager
Trish Staton, Clerk to the Board
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney
Melonie Bryan, Deputy County Manager/Financial Services
Michael Taylor, Chief Information Officer
Shelley Leach, Budget Analysis
Steve Hines, Election Director
John Morrow, Director/Health Department

Call to Order

Meeting Notes

Chairman Ward called the budget workshop to order and welcomed everyone.

Roll Call

Invocation and Pledge

Meeting Notes

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Ross.
The Pledge was led by Commissioner Coulson.

Approval of Agenda

Motion:

Approval of agenda as submitted.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenneth Ross.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Melvin McLawhorn.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Items for Report

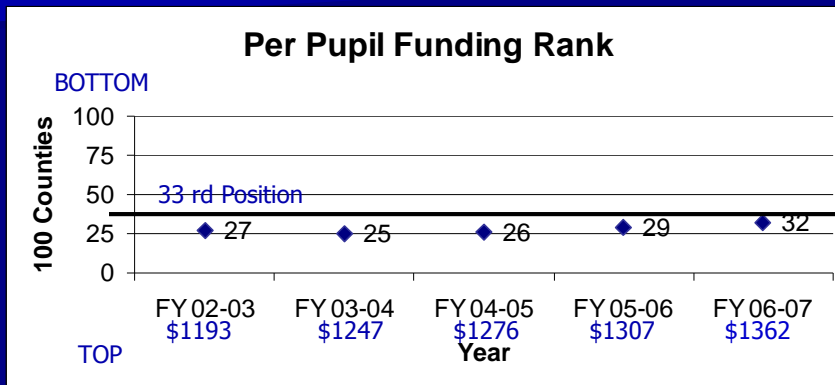
Manager's Overview - Scott Elliott

Budget Change – Net of Medicaid	
All Funds	\$197,836,192
Medicaid	<u>(2,012,479)</u>
Revised	\$195,823,713
	or -5.27%
General Fund	\$107,850,028
Medicaid	<u>(2,012,479)</u>
Revised	\$105,837,549
	or 3.30%

Education Funding

- Met with BOE staff to compare data sets and variance between 35th position (County data) and 32nd position (Bd of Ed data)
- Confirmed with NCACC that data had been changed/updated since original publication
- Using currently published data, County is currently in Top 1/3rd
- Maintenance of PPE @ \$1,362 on projected ADM of 22,928 continues that goal and allows County to reduce funding recommendation

Pitt County Schools



Pitt County Schools – FY 2007-08

■ Current Expense \$31,567,936

Includes funds for 22,928 students @ \$1,362/per (32nd rank per the FY 06-07 Revised NCACC data and \$340,000 for rent on administrative space)

■ Category I,II,III Capital \$ 750,000

Total Funding \$32,317,936

Increased Funding

■ Current Expense Increase \$ 926,971
(3.03% over FY 06-07)

Ways to Mitigate Proposed Tax Increase

■ Revenue – 1.5-cent levy	\$1,378,798
■ Reduction – BOE Funding	-687,840
■ Defer – Vehicle Replacement	-502,000
■ Delay Roof Replacement	-44,000
■ Eliminate Elections Reserve	<u>-144,000</u>

These actions could negate the need for any tax increase in Fiscal Year 07-08.

A Projected Look Forward

Fiscal Year 2008-09

Known Impacts:

– Detention Center Opening	\$2,000,000*
– New Elementary School	350,000
– Education Funding (5 yr avg)	1,390,000
– Natural Growth	<u>3,800,000</u>
	\$7,540,000

*Represents partial year of operation.

FY 08-09 Revaluation

Estimated New Revenue (holding 70.0-cent rate)	\$7,952,744
Known Impacts	<u>(\$7,540,000)</u>
Balance for use in FY08-09	\$ 412,744

Points to Consider

- No expansion of programs or services
- No new positions
- Delayed Fleet Replacement – unknown impact. However, fleet is aging and in many departments staff “work” from their vehicles
- Modest 2.1% Cost of Living Adjustment

Discussion:

Commissioner McLawhorn stated he was concerned about the ad valorem tax rate increasing. He stated it would be a tremendous hard ship for the citizens of Pitt County.

Commissioner Johnson stated he did not think the County could continue to provide the same services for more citizens without raising taxes.

Commissioner Garris thanked the Manager for the work he has done since they last met.

Commissioner Coulson stated even though the Education Compact is not formally in place, the money is still going to the School system.

Chairman Ward asked if the calculation for the schools is based on the current expenses, and not the capital outlay money. Mr. Elliott stated that was correct. Chairman Ward stated this calculation was based on per pupil. Mr. Elliott stated in a recent report from the State Association of County Commissioners, it showed the County spending \$368 per pupil for debt services. Mr. Elliott stated if the Board was to fund the Schools the \$926,000, of the of the \$2M in new revenue, this still represents 50 percent of the new revenues being dedicated to Schools.

Commissioner James stated the people that own more expensive houses can afford more expensive taxes. He asked the Manager to come up with another revenue source. Mr. Elliott stated the Local Option Sales Tax was another source of revenue. Commissioner James asked about transfer taxes. He stated schools were the biggest expense. Commissioner James spoke about AmbuMed services.

Pitt Community College**Meeting Notes**

Dr. Dennis Massey presented a Power Point presentation to the Board. He spoke about the proposed budget proposal Pitt Community College is requesting.

PCC Enrollment Compared to NCCCS Enrollment

<u>Year</u>	PCC	Growth%	NCCCS	Growth%
2004-2005	17,584		797,341	
2005-2006	18,657	<u>5.75%</u>	801,676	<u>0.54%</u>



Pitt Community College Budget Request, May 9, 2007

Non-County Funds 2006-2007

\$37,904,868

**Sixty-Four Academic Programs to
choose from.**

**PCC Graduated 730 individuals
during academic year 2006-2007**

(277 summer & fall '06, plus 453 spring '07)



Pitt Community College Budget Request, May 9, 2007

1. Pitt County Funding, 2006-2007

\$3,528,000

2. Pitt County Support per FTE Ranking within NCCCS:

35th out of 58 Pitt CC: \$651/FTE



Pitt Community College Budget Request, May 9, 2007

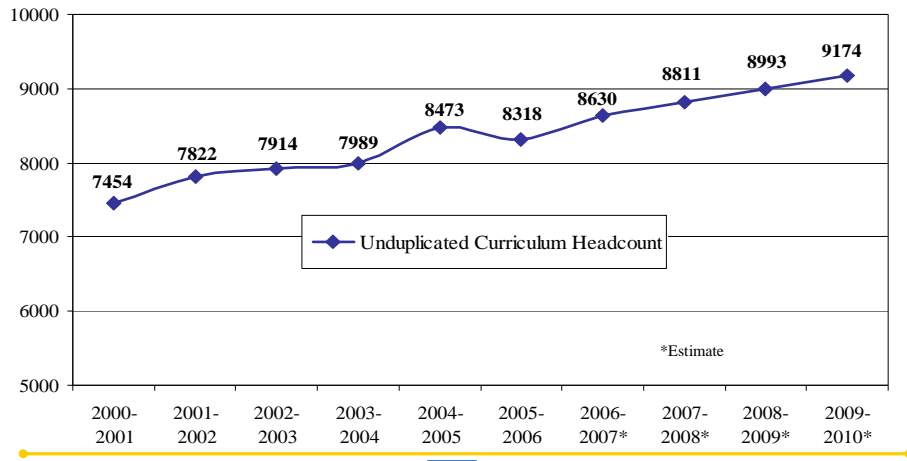
Average County Support:
\$800.00

Midpoint County Support:
\$768.00



Pitt Community College Budget Request, May 9, 2007

Pitt Community College Curriculum Enrollment Trend



It is estimated by the year 2010 PCC will enroll over 9,000 curriculum students.

Pitt Community College Budget Request, May 9, 2007

Discussion:

Commissioner James stated that 30-40 percent of students are transferring from Pitt Community College to four year universities. Dr. Massey stated the transfer program is about 35 percent of their students. He asked what percentage of the students are not from Pitt County. Dr. Massey stated that most are North Carolina residents with about 64 percent being Pitt County residents. Dr. Massey stated that he does not have a break down for the percentage of transfer students. Commissioner Johnson asked about the increase in salaries for staff. Dr. Massey said there is a 4 percent increase proposed. Commissioner James asked about the rent for Pitt Community College. Commissioner James spoke about not being critical of Pitt Community College but he was concerned. He spoke about Pitt Community College being in the top third. Dr. Massey spoke about the vast majority of students remaining in Pitt County after receiving their education.

Commsisioner Coulson spoke about supporting Pitt Community College. He spoke about the community supporting community college. He welcomed students from other counties coming to Pitt Community College. He spoke about students not being ready for a four year university. Commissioner Coulson said he welcomes anyone to come and receive their education here in Pitt County.

Commissioner Ross spoke about supporting Pitt Community College. He asked for clarification about the salaries of Pitt Community College employees. He spoke about appreciating the work that Pitt Community College does and he thinks the college is a good investment for the County.

Commissioner Garris spoke about the Pitt Community College presenting their budget very well. He spoke about appreciating the work that Pitt Community College does for the community.

Commissioner McLawhorn applauded the efforts of Pitt Community College. He spoke about Pitt Community College being a viable vehicle for Pitt County. He stated \$37.9M brought into Pitt County from the Community College. Dr. Massey thanked Commissioner McLawhorn and spoke about being a part of the team that brought CMS plastics to Ayden. Dr. Massey stated that they pledged service to CMS plastics as they started their training programs.

Chairman Ward spoke about being happy to hear about the savings on the energy program. She spoke about it being a good program and not costing the county much. She spoke about the top students attending the academic awards ceremony. She stated that she was always pleased to see students moving on to a job within Pitt County. She spoke about Pitt Community College playing a big role in helping educate students and students finding jobs in Pitt County.

Dr. Massey thanked the Board for their time.

Elections - Steve Hines

Meeting Notes

Mr. Steve Hines spoke about each election year being different. He spoke about the general election being next year and his budget reflecting. Mr. Hines spoke about Senate Bill 168, he said the status is unknown at this time. He spoke about it being good for Pitt County. Mr. Hines spoke about the election cycle and stated this year there was a municipal election in November and a primary election in May.

Commissioner McLawhorn spoke about the elections office making it better and more accessible for Pitt county citizens to vote.

Commissioner Garris asked about the \$144,000 being the amount the manager is planning to balance the budget. He stated the risk of that, is if the bill is passed the county will have to find the money.

Commissioner James spoke about the places citizens go to vote.

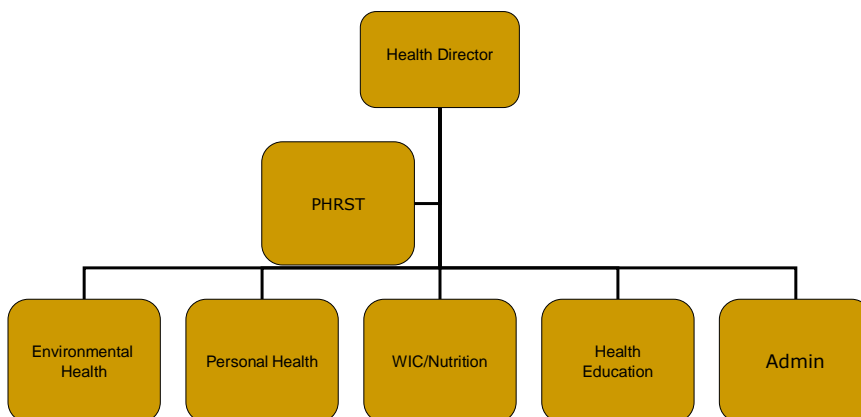
Mr. Hines spoke about the one stop voting center. Mr. Hines spoke about there being two one stop voting machines. There will be a change in the voting machines which will help in moving people in and out.

The Commissioners took a short break at this time.

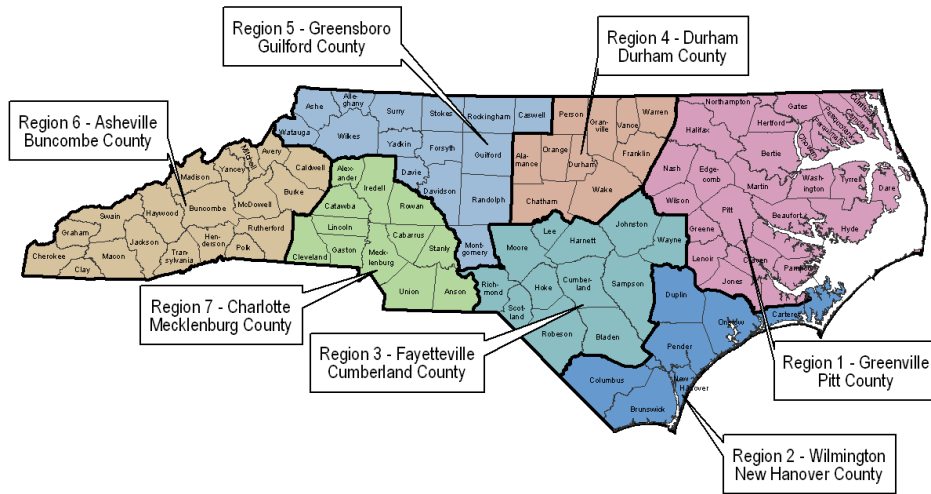
How Public Health Keeps Us Healthy

- Control of Infectious Disease Outbreaks
 - Improvements in Environmental Sanitation
 - Improving the health of women and children particularly
 - Health Promotion and Prevention of Chronic Diseases
-

Pitt County Public Health Divisions



Public Health Regional Surveillance Teams



Examples of Services performed in one year

- **2200 sanitation inspections**
 - **3100 onsite wastewater site visits**
 - **7000 environmental consultations**
 - **3000 permits and authorizations issued**
 - **30,000 clinical visits (120 per day avg.)**
 - **8,600 WIC/Nutrition visits**
-

Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Update

- Revenues Budgeted \$8,564,027
 as of 4-30-07 \$5,654,868
- Expenditures Budgeted \$8,564,027
 as of 4-30-07 \$6,478,467

Revenues < expenditures by: \$823,599

Based on current projections we should finish the fiscal year using ~\$250,000 of fund balance

Fund Balance

- Our present fund balance is \$1,607,000
 - We budgeted \$843,000 in this year's budget but anticipate using only ~\$250,000.
 - All of our fund balance is presently restricted since it was earned in Medicaid eligible programs.
 - Next year we have budgeted over \$900,000 to go back into these Medicaid programs where it was earned.
-

Proposed Budget

2007-2008

- Revenues \$8,946,101

 - Expenses \$8,946,101
-

Proposed Revenues

\$8,946,101

- State and Federal \$2,574,519
 - County \$3,505,950
 - Fees and Charges \$1,795,956
 - Fund Balance \$ 906,739
 - Miscellaneous \$ 162,937
-

Proposed Expenditures

\$8,946,101

- Salary and Fringe \$7,094,236

 - Operating \$1,786,365

 - Capital Outlay \$ 65,500
-

Overview of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

- **Increase in overall costs by \$592,001**
 - **Net increase of FTEs by 3**
 - **With projected earnings from these positions, the net cost to the county for these positions would be \$81,387**
 - **Grant programs remain solely grant funded**
-

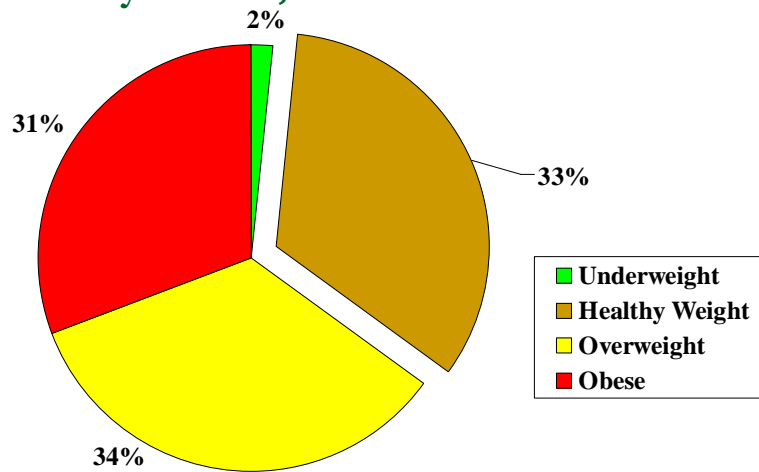
Major Accomplishments of 2006

- ❑ Became officially Accredited as a local health department and achieved 100% compliance on all 41 benchmarks. We are one of the few health departments in the US accredited.
 - ❑ Launched a Pandemic Flu community awareness campaign and developed local plan.
 - ❑ Selected as a pilot for State's new electronic disease surveillance system.
 - ❑ Selected as a pilot for State's new information data system.
-

Challenges and Opportunities for 2007-2008

- Complete a community health assessment for the county.
 - Growing hispanic/latino population.
 - Continuing to improve county's preparation for an influenza pandemic
 - Promoting prevention as a reimbursable service.
 - Addressing the obesity epidemic.
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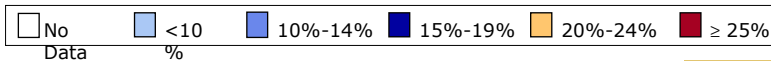
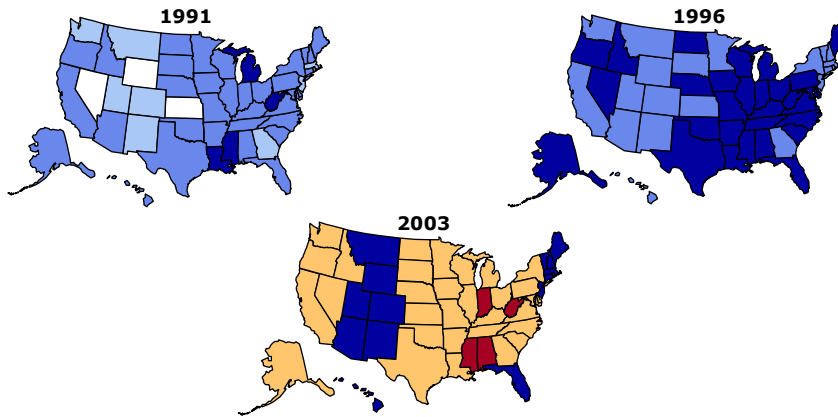
Weight Categories of Pitt County Adults, 2005



NC BRFSS, 2005

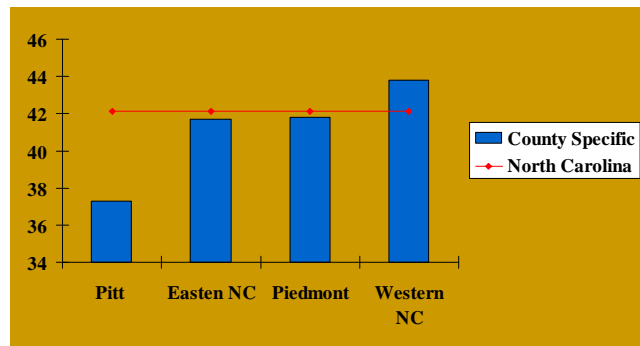
Obesity Trends* Among U.S. Adults BRFSS, 1991, 1996, 2003

(*BMI ≥ 30 , or about 30 lbs overweight for 5'4" person)



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDC.

Meets Physical Activity Recommendations



NC BRFSS 2005

Meeting Notes

Dr. John Morrow presented the Health Department budget to the Board of Commissioners and presented a Power Point presentation.

Commissioner James asked about the Burnstin Center and asked what involvement Pitt County has in it. Dr. Morrow said it is a primary care health center. He stated that they provide primary care services five days a week. He said there is a written agreement with the Burnstin Center; that they send prenatal and family planning patients to the Pitt County Health Department. They add an additional leg to primary health care services. Commissioner James stated that this center is open to Pitt County citizens. Dr. Morrow stated that the Burnstin Center also provides pharmacy services. Commissioner James asked if bills were being sent out on time to collect the funds for services. John Reed said the bills to clients go out monthly. Mr. Reed said they have starting using the North Carolina debt set off clearing house to collect delinquent accounts. He stated this has help reduced the set off. Mr. Reed stated that Pitt County is in line with other counties in collecting and recovery debt. Commissioner James asked what type of cars the Health Department buys and stated that they could purchase them for cheaper than what they were paying.

Mr. Elliott commented on the \$250,000 spent in the Health Department's budget. Mr. Elliott stated the money is there to be spent as a dedicated revenue source.

Commissioner James said Dr. Morrow is one of the best Health Directors in North Carolina.

Commission Coulson thanked Dr. Morrow and his staff for everything they do.

Commissioner Ross said he appreciates everything Dr. Morrow does for the citizens of Pitt County.

Chairman Garris asked about personal services and operating expenses. Mr. Elliott stated 3.3 percent is true across the board for all departments. He stated that there is a 2 percent catch up that is affecting this budget. Mr. Reed said the main cost drivers for the operating expense is about a \$40,000 increase in allocated costs from MIS department. He also stated that the contract with East Carolina School of Medicine is going up about \$26,000 this year.

Commissioner McLawhorn commended Dr. Morrow for what he is doing for Pitt County. He spoke about the hounding cough and asked what Pitt County is doing to prevent an outbreak such as this. Dr. Morrow stated this was typically a child hood disease and every child is vaccinated in this State. He stated, after 10-20 years, the vaccination can wear off and they have vaccinated some adults. He stated the Health Department is giving free techno shots; the real risk is with small children. Commissioner McLawhorn spoke about the spraying of mosquitos. Dr. Morrow stated that mosquitos have evolved over the last 20 years and the spraying machines are safe agents. Dr. Morrow said the answer in mosquito control is to spray the nymphs and larva. Dr. Morrow stated that there are mosquito born diseases, but they are very rare.

Mr. Elliott stated in this budget, there is a proposal of transferring mosquito control to the Environmental Health Department. He stated that mosquito control was currently under the Animal Control Department. Mr. Elliott spoke of the three positions that Dr. Morrow was asking for.

Chairman Ward asked what the total amount for each position is. Dr. Morrow stated \$81,387 for the three positions.

Council on Aging

Meeting Notes

Henry McNeice, Chairman of the executive committee. Mr. McNeice spoke about the mission of the Council on Aging. He thanked the Commissioners for granting the land on County Home Road. He spoke about an opening date of January 2008. He stated that Pitt County is one of the most progressive counties in eastern North Carolina.

Ernie Taylor, Treasure for Council on Aging, spoke about his involvement. He started as a volunteer with the Council on Aging and he is now in his third term on the Board of Directors. He stated, as they move to the new senior center, they will need more assistance.

Dr. Byrd stated the two gentlemen that spoke prior to him have been involved with Council on Aging for the past eight to ten years. He spoke about needing support and the Board responding in a positive manner. He spoke about receiving money from the federal government. He spoke about the role of the Council on Aging. He spoke about the Commissioners being supportive for the past 25 years. He spoke about needing more funding. He spoke senior center in the Bethel area.

Commissioner McLawhorn spoke about transportation being a problem in providing care for the seniors. Dr. Byrd said the Council on Aging will use general fund to provide transportation. He said anyone who calls in now can get transportation to the Center. He said the Council on Aging is using private contractors at this time but hopes to use Pitt Area Transit in the future.

Commissioner Garris spoke about the funds the County has given to the Council on Aging. He spoke about receiving a report on the total budget for the Council on Aging. Dr. Byrd said \$1 million dollars in operating budget. Dr. Byrd said there was \$2 million in capital outlay. He stated that every dollar is committed.

Vice Chairman Owens thanked Dr. Byrd for his efforts. Vice Chairman Owens asked about Bill Taft. Dr. Byrd said Mr. Taft has been a champion in fund-raising and made a major contribution.

Commissioner Coulson said Council on Aging does good things for the community.

Chairman Ward asked who is manning the satellite in Grifton, Farmville, Fountain and Ayden. Dr. Byrd stated the site manager is a paid employee for 20 hours a week. Chairman Ward asked how much of the million dollars come from federal fund and the governor's program. Dr. Byrd said about 80 percent is the American's Act, 12-14 percent is County and 10 percent is the Governor's.

Chairman Ward asked the Manager if Council on Aging was an affiliate of the County versus a non-profit. Mr. Elliott stated an affiliate list was identified a few years ago, meaning an amount is identified that they receive. Mr. Elliott stated he was told by the Mid-East Commission, once they receive the accreditation that could mean \$20-30 thousand for the Council on Aging in additional revenue. The Manager encouraged Dr. Byrd to apply for the accreditation.

Commissioner Garris stated if the accreditation was given, Dr. Byrd would then come back next year asking for additional money.

Chairman Ward thanked Dr. Byrd for his presentation

Manager's Roundup - Scott Elliott

Meeting Notes

Mr. Elliott stated the Board would not be meeting tomorrow, May 10, 2007. The next meeting would be Friday, May 11, 2007. The Board of Commissioners would be hearing from Emergency Management, Animal Shelter and the Sheriff/Detention Center.

Commissioner Directives/Comments

Meeting Notes

Vice-Chairman Owens said the Manager and staff have presented a budget that has followed the board's direction. He said he wanted to hear from all the agencies before commenting.

Commissioner Garris thanked the staff the work on the budget. He thanked them for coming back today with additional options.

Commissioner McLawhorn said he does not want to see a tax increase. He spoke about finding other options to balance the budget.

Mr. Elliott stated he wanted to remind the Board of the joint meeting with Pitt County Schools on their budget on May 14, 2007.

Commissioner Johnson said he would like to move the presentations up to Thursday.

Vice-Chairman Owens said if the Board was scheduled to meet with the School Board Monday night, it is ludicrous for the Board of Commissioners to adopt the budget before then.

Commissioner Johnson stated he thinks it would be proper to schedule a meeting for Tuesday, May 15, 2007.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold another budget workshop on May 15, 2007 at 2 p.m.

Adjourn

Meeting Notes

The budget workshop recessed at 11:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Staton
Clerk to the Board