

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 15, 1999**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session meeting on Monday, February 15, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, Greenville, North Carolina with the following commissioners present:

Eugene James, Chairman
Jeffrey E. Savage, Vice Chairman
Glenn Bowen, Commissioner
Charles P. Gaskins, Commissioner
David Hammond, Commissioner
Thomas H. Johnson, Commissioner
Mark W. Owens, Jr., Commissioner
M. Theresa Shank, Commissioner
Beth B. Ward, Commissioner

Also present were:

Thomas B. Robinson, County Manager
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney
Susan J. Banks, Clerk to the Board
Arlen Holt, PIO and Cable Coordinator
John K. Bulow, Assistant Manager
Melonie Bryan, Director of Financial Services

Call to Order and welcome by Chairman James.

Prayer by Commissioner Johnson.

Pledge by Vice Chairman Savage.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Robinson asked to remove the Fire/Rescue Contract and the closed session minutes from the agenda. Commissioner Bowen motioned to move the item on hunting regulations to 10:00 a.m. Vice Chairman Savage seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. Chairman James announced the agenda approved as amended.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman James asked for approval of the minutes.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 20, 1999 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION

UPON MOTION by Vice Chairman Savage, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution of appreciation for Peggy McKeel, who retired from the Department of Social Services.

Vice Chairman presented Peggy McKeel a resolution expressing the Board's appreciation as follows:

RESOLUTION HONORING

PEGGY H. McKEEL

**AND HER SERVICE TO
PITT COUNTY**

FEBRUARY 15, 1999

Whereas, ***Peggy H. McKeel*** began her career with the County of Pitt as a Typist I on June 11, 1968, and;

Whereas, ***Peggy McKeel*** was promoted to Eligibility Specialist I on August 21, 1972 which lead to a succession of promotions throughout her career culminating in her appointment to the classification of Caseworker III in 1989, and;

Whereas, ***Peggy H. McKeel*** in her capacity as a "lead worker" has been valued highly by her co-workers and supervisors as a source of program knowledge, and;

Whereas, ***Peggy H. McKeel*** in recent years has served as an outposted Medicaid worker at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, and;

Whereas, ***Peggy H. McKeel*** is known to be a compassionate and caring individual to the Medicaid client, and;

Whereas, ***Peggy H. McKeel*** is known and respected by her peers as a professional caseworker who has a dedicated team member during her tenure as a Pitt County employee.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners hereby acknowledges appreciation of the service of ***Peggy H. McKeel*** to Pitt County and wishes her success and happiness in all future endeavors.

Adopted this 15th day of February, 1999.

Eugene James, Chairman
Pitt County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board

Ms. McKeel thanked the Board for her many years with Pitt County.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
HONORING

Edith D. Warren

THAT WHEREAS, Edith D. Warren is the first woman to be elected a Pitt County Commissioner in the 238-year history of the County of Pitt; and,

WHEREAS, Edith D. Warren has provided outstanding representation for the citizens of Pitt County Election Districts 4 and 5 since 1996; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Edith Warren was a member of the Pitt County Delegation, representing the State of North Carolina, to the President's Summit for America's Future which was held in April, 1997; and,

WHEREAS, the citizens of Pitt County will long remember the Board's accomplishments during Ms. Warren's term as Commissioner, including efforts to insure the continued success of Pitt County Memorial Hospital and health care in Pitt County, the decisions to proceed with the Courthouse Addition Project, the opening of new centers for Emergency Operations, 9-1-1 Communication, and Sheriff's Department Communications, and the Board's strong support for education in Pitt County; and,

WHEREAS, Edith D. Warren will continue to represent the people of Pitt County as the State Representative from District 8; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners does hereby commend Edith D. Warren for her conscientious and enthusiastic service to the citizens of Pitt County during her term as a Commissioner.

ADOPTED this day, the fifteenth of February, 1999.

ATTEST:

Susan J. Banks, Clerk

Ms. Edith Warren, member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, stated that it was an honor to be presented with this resolution and she was humbled by the confidence the people of Pitt County have placed in her. She stated that she was looking forward to continuing to serving the people in her new capacity with the North Carolina House of Representatives.

Commissioner Bowen asked about the status of the resolution from Pitt County on lowering the gun permit fee. Representative Warren stated that the resolution was sent to bill drafting and it is in process for being presented for approval.

PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO THE BOARD

Nancy Colville commented on the following:

- School Board meeting and how funding would be used.

Vice Chairman Savage noted that the Board did not receive answers to the questions and priorities that they had posed to the School Board.

Chairman James said that this item is on the agenda at a later time and the Board members should hold their discussion until the proper time on the agenda.

- Doug Bostic expressed concerns from the last meeting related to ambulance franchise companies. He asked the Board to revisit their action on the ambulance franchise applications.

Chairman James stated that it is the policy of this Board to serve the citizens and the Board followed the recommendation from the of committee. Mr. Robinson stated that he had asked Mr. Bostic to put his comments in writing and those comments were forwarded to the Committee. Mr. Bostic stated that a copy was to go to the board.

- Kathy Kier spoke concerning the Farmers Market. She requested that a five member committee be established to oversee the vendors concerns about the operations of the Farmers Market. She stated that there were mileage reports which were not accurate and that she had vendors at the Farmers Market that could substantiate her story and claims. Ms. Kier also stated that she had requested a receipt for using her own money and supplies in landscaping at the Farmers Market but a receipt had not been forthcoming. She stated she needed a receipt for her taxes.

Mr. Robinson stated that Mitch Smith, Director of Cooperative Extension who oversees the Farmers Market, could not address this problem at this time because of some medical problems and he was on an extended leave. Mr. Robinson said he was unaware of the request for a tax receipt and was not prepared to certify her expenses. Mrs. JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney, stated that the staff had been working on the request for a committee but this had also been postponed. This was not a pressing issue since the Farmers Market will not reopen until April, 1999.

Commissioner Hammond requested that Ms. Kier be told something definite because she has been before this Board at each meeting.

Vice Chairman Savage motioned to form a committee with the five members Ms. Kier had recommended. Commissioner Hammond seconded the motion.

Vice Chairman Savage asked if the committee members were willing to serve and had been contacted. Ms. Kier stated that she had discussed it with them. The recommended members were:

- 1) Ethel and Curtis Peterson, vendor
- 2) Carl White, farmer
- 3) Kathy Kier
- 4) John Bulow
- 5) Phil Dickerson

Ms. Kier stated that these names had also been run by Mr. Smith. Ms. Kier asked that this be a steering committee to address items of concern.

Commissioner Bowen stated that the Board should let farmers market vendors meet and make a recommendation. Commissioner Shank stated that the staff was working on this matter and the board should allow that proper process to occur before taking any action.

Chairman James called for the vote on the motion to form a committee with the five recommended members. The vote was two to seven and the motion failed. Commissioners in favor of the motion were: Commissioner Hammond and Vice Chairman Savage. Commissioners opposed to the motion were: James, Owens, Ward, Shank, Gaskins, Bowen and Johnson.

Chairman James appointed Commissioner Bowen to work with Ms. Kier to get this item straightened out by the next meeting.

ITEMS FOR REPORT

Manager's Report

Mr. Robinson reported on the following items:

- Joint meeting requested by the Greenville City Council

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Gaskins, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted unanimously to schedule the joint meeting with the Greenville City Council on March 15, 1999 at 5:30 p.m. in the Greenville City Council Chambers. Chairman James noted that it consider sewer provisions out near Agri Supply. Commissioner Bowen stated that he wanted to know what the City's intentions are on the industrial park. Commissioner Shank requested public transit, transportation issues and road construction be added.

Commissioner Bowen asked the County Manager to inform the Ayden and Grifton Managers that they can come and observe, if they want. Commissioner Hammond stated it would be good to have Collice Moore and people from the State Department of Transportation present to talk about projects.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the Metropolitan Planning Organization has a meeting scheduled with Secretary Tolson.

- Water and Sewer Planning Committee meetings scheduled for February 23, March 1 and 8th meetings at 5:30 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center.
- Board of Commissioners Planning Meeting scheduled for February 22, 1999 at 8:30 a.m., location to be determined.
- Board of Commissioners workshops scheduled for March 2 at 5:30 p.m. and March 3 at 8:30 a.m. at the Auditorium of the Agricultural Building. Institute of Government representatives, Kurt Jenne and Fleming Bell, will work with the Board on procedures, expectations of each other and staff.
- NACO Conference scheduled for February 26-March 3. Mr. Robinson noted that there is a conflict between the NACO conference and scheduled Board meetings. Commissioners need to return on March 2 if they want to participate in the Board meetings.
- Minnie Edwards lawsuit was won by the County. Mrs. Burgdorff reported that the judge ruled in favor of the County. Ms. Edwards may file an appeal.

Vice Chairman Savage commended the County Attorney on how she advised the Board and handled the case.

Monthly Financial Report - Melonie Bryan, Director of Financial Services

Ms. Bryan provided the Board with a monthly financial report for January, 1999. She stated that the revenues are over the expenditures and that she is watching the Mental Health funds. Commissioner Bowen asked about travel expenses that were in the paper. Vice Chairman Savage asked about the Mental Health funding situation. Ms. Bryan said she's aware there is a concern about Mental Health's financial situation. She stated to her knowledge Mental Health is behind \$1.5 million in their budget. Vice Chairman Savage stated that the news media has been publishing a lot about massive layoffs at Mental Health. Mr. Robinson noted that this topic is scheduled for later in the agenda and could be addressed then.

Summary of Revenues: \$12,514,825

Summary of Expenditures: \$9,306,171

Monthly Tax Collectors Report - Floyd Little, Tax Collector

Mr. Little read the tax report for December and January accumulative.

Total Jan 1999 Collections	\$7,603,681
Total to Date 1998/1999:	\$36,034,863
Jan 1999 Levy:	\$38,993,185
Garnishments for Jan 1999:	\$57,295
Bankruptcy for Jan 1999:	1,687
Occupancy for Dec. 1998:	61,336
Occupancy to Date 98/99:	\$572,146

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted to accept the tax collector's report as given.

Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MPO) - James Rhodes, County Planning Director and Ron Sveijkovsky, Greenville Planning Department

Mr. Rhodes stated that the projects for the MPO are on a schedule for the years of 2000-2006. He stated that the MPO area is all of Greenville, Winterville and some fringe areas of the unincorporated Pitt County. Mr. Rhodes noted that the Southwest bypass and details about Fire Tower Road needed to be reviewed for the Board. Mr. Ron Sveijkovsky, City of Greenville Planning Department and member of MPO, was introduced to the Board. Mr. Rhodes stated that Commissioner Johnson had been appointed to represent the Board on the MPO.

Mr. Sveijkovsky said that the County can provide comments to the State concerning the 2000-2006 planning projects. He stated that the members of the MPO would be meeting with Secretary Tolson in Raleigh in March. He stated that they are sending a delegation to meet with the Secretary and hope to negotiate some changes and open up some meaningful discussion with the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Sveijkovsky reviewed some of the following key projects:

- Bethel highway widening;
- 33 West widening
- twin bridges on Greene Street.
- 10th street widening heading out of Greenville (which they hope contract starts this spring)

He stated that they needed additional information on the Fire Tower Road Project. There are two phases of this project and there is a need to know the schedule and the impact on the traffic in this area.

- Farmville Boulevard Project - concern over railroad tracks because of going from campus to the hospital. They would like the design work to get started.
- Memorial Drive/Dickinson Avenue Intersection - was put on a back table and they want to prioritize this project.

Commissioner Hammond asked about the Hooker Road Project. Mr. Sveijkovsky said the completion date for the Hooker Road project is December 1999 and that they are working as quickly as they can.

Mr. Sveijkovsky stated that each year the by-pass project is delayed will make it harder to purchase the land for the project. The Transportation Advisory Committee will be meeting prior to the trip to Raleigh to meet with Secretary Tolson and this item will be addressed.

Chairman James stated his concern with Highway 33 around the airport. He also asked about what the Department of Transportation had done with the Board's request for an on and off ramp at Old River Road.

Elevated Hunting Requirements - Commissioner Owens

Commissioner Owens welcomed everyone who was present concerning this item. He stated that he had written a note to the Manager identifying three items of concern that he had from constituents. One of the concerns was increased hunting regulations and safety. He stated that he had asked the Manager to respond to the concerns. Commissioner Owens noted that the input he received from people in his area was that people think there is a safety issue involved. He asked the Chairman to appoint a committee to review this citizens concern and hunting regulations for safety issues.

Commissioner Owens motioned for a committee to be appointed to review safety procedures and hunting regulations. Vice Chairman Savage offered a second for discussion purposes. Vice Chairman Savage asked Commissioner Owens if he had any suggestion for members of this committee. Commissioner Owens suggested members comprise of the Wildlife Commission, Board of Commissioners, hunters, hunt clubs, and property owners. He stated that the hunters in his district are as concerned with safety as anyone.

Commissioner Savage stated that in light of the growth in this County, he was in support of forming this committee. Commissioner Gaskins said that there would be a public hearing on this type of issue before any action would be taken by this Board. Commissioner Bowen said he had met last Saturday with members of the hunt clubs and they discussed some of the things that need to be done. He also stated that on March 13, the hunting clubs would be getting back together with him. Consequently, Commissioner Bowen asked that the Board delay this item because the hunting population may come up with something themselves. Commissioner Bowen encouraged this action and stated that it is appropriate for the hunters to be involved in policing themselves. Commissioner Hammond said there hasn't been one incident reported in the last 25-30 years that would indicate a need for further regulations. He

added that many of the hunters are retired and this Board should not restrict their enjoyment of hunting if they have organized hunting clubs with a good track record.

Commissioner Bowen offered a substitute motion to table this item and allow six weeks for hunt clubs to come back to the Board with their recommendation. Commissioner Hammond seconded the substitute motion which was unanimously approved. Approval of the substitute motion supersedes the original motion.

Y2K Report - Michael Taylor, MIS Director

Mr. Taylor gave an overview and report on what the Board members could expect from the County staff on the Year 2000 conversion. He stated that there was a project team formed to work on the problems which the Pitt County Government offices may incur. He stated that the project team was doing planning and awareness, inventory and detailed assessment of the problem. They have scheduled a resolution in July, do test execution, and fallout and then to start up the Contingency Plan to manage fall out with other agencies. He said that the State has spent millions of dollars on this project and that the County has purchased some Financial/Human Resource Software to assist with the conversion. He stated that the key issues are that there are limited resources. There is a need to have retention of trained and knowledgeable staff, and many of the agencies are dependent on State systems such as human service agencies and they may have disruption in services. The systems that are not in compliance are Mental Health and the Sheriff's Department but that they are moving forward now. He stated that they are working on a contingency plan and are establishing contacts with key organizations such as the Pitt County Memorial Hospital, Greenville Utilities Commission and others.

Commissioner Shank asked if the County is offering resources. Mr. Taylor stated that the Federal and State offices are providing some resources and that the Public Information Officer is part of the team working on this project so they may be able to address the need for County resources.

Vice Chairman Savage noted an article in the City and County Magazine, December issue, that addresses this item. Chairman James expressed his appreciation for the report and the work being done by the Management Information Systems Department.

Update on Eastern Carolina Technology Center - John Chaffee

Mr. Chaffee stated that they are making good progress with the Incubator project. They have signed leases for 22,000 square feet out of 37,000 square feet of leaseable space. It is generating \$80,000 in revenue annually but still falls \$40,000 short. However, Mr. Chaffee stated that they are negotiating two additional leases which could make the Technology Incubator self sufficient. For the benefit of the new commissioners, he reviewed the layout of the incubator and some of the history of the project.

Mr. Chaffee stated that they may be constructing a new entrance to the Incubator based on a customer request. He said that if they are successful in meeting

the needs of their tenants then they will stay in Pitt County and build their own new facilities as needed when they outgrow the incubator. He also reviewed the funding and resources which have been used for the start up and continuation of the Technology Incubator. He added that with the amortization schedule they would break even eventually and then be able to put additional funds in a fund to be used for those tenants.

Mr. Chaffee stated that in the future they plan to have a common lab with freezers, dryers, glassware, etc. to share between the tenants. He stated that one of the projects will be complete and they will be able to request reimbursement for 50% of the expenses by the end of this month. He praised Global Contractors for the excellent job they have done on the site improvements. Boyd Associates will also start work once temperatures are conducive for their work.

Mr. Chaffee explained that Indigreen was also the first industrial site to be certified which means the property is ready to be occupied by industry looking for locations. Commissioner Bowen asked about the South Pitt Industrial Park. Mr. Chaffee stated that they are trying to keep it going. Mr. Chaffee also explained about each of the County's shell buildings progress.

Vice Chairman Savage asked about the Development Commissions communication with local industries about the Y2K? Mr. Chaffee said that they have been in contact with the industries.

Commissioner Owens asked Chairman to move the item from the Town of Fountain up on the agenda.

REQUEST FROM TOWN OF FOUNTAIN – MIKE BARNES, TOWN COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Mike Barnes, Fountain Town Commissioner, stated that they have a building in downtown Fountain that needs to be refurbished. He stated that the building represents 15% of the whole downtown area and that they are trying to spur some commerce in the downtown area. He noted that the town sits on the edge of four counties and they want to bring some business to Pitt County. He stated that their town has just completely upgraded the electric system and now are working on the water and sewer systems. Mr. Barnes said that they have a new vision for their community. Commissioner Hammond commended them on their efforts. Mr. Robinson suggested that they take their request to the Pitt County Development Commission and asked them to study it and look into ways that they may be of appropriate assistance and have them report back to the Board.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to refer the request for assistance to refurbish a building in the downtown area in Fountain to the Pitt County Development Commission and they report back to the Board on their recommendation. Mr. Barnes thanked the Board for their consideration.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

Mr. Robinson read items for consent as presented on the agenda.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted unanimously approved the items for consent.

1. Proclaim March as National Nutrition Month in Pitt County

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the Month of March, 1999 has been declared National Nutrition Month;

WHEREAS healthful eating decreases the risk of developing cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, osteoporosis and hypertension; poor nutritional habits increase risk of these conditions as well as the risk of overweight and obesity;

WHEREAS the incidence of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer are higher in Pitt County than the North Carolina state average;

WHEREAS overweight and obesity are increasing among citizens in Pitt County;

WHEREAS the diet of citizens in Pitt County contains an excess of fat, sodium, and sugar;

WHEREAS in order to adequately address these concerns and reduce risk of chronic disease, our community must raise its awareness of the problem and its causes;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commissioners for the County of Pitt, do hereby proclaim the month of March, 1999, as

NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

in Pitt County.

2. Approval to Order Advertisement of 1998 Real Property for Failure to Pay Taxes
3. Appointment of Falkland Fire Department Fire Commission members as follows:
 - a. David Carraway
 - b. Bobby Norville
 - c. Amos L. Moore, Jr.
4. Refunds Greater Than \$100 - \$640.83
 - a. Gorham - \$180.02
 - b. Strickland - \$169.80
 - c. Thompson - \$142.18
 - d. Williams - \$148.83
5. Budget Amendment for Sheriff's Department

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
10-4-31-540.00	Vehicles	7,600	

10-4-31-250.00	Auto Expenses		7,600
10-4-31-540.00	Vehicles	11,000	
10-3-00-850.00	Insurance Settlements	11,000	

6. Food & Shelter Grant Award & Miscellaneous Adjustments (Social Services)

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
16-5-88-600.82	CP&L Energy Asst.		479
16-3-00-320.00	Social Services Admin.		479
16-5-88-600.81	Crisis Intervention Payments	4,503	
16-3-00-320.00	Social Services Admin.	4,503	
16-5-88-600.83	United Way Energy	13,812	
16-3-00-840.02	United Way Contri. Emergency Shelter	13,812	

7. Budget Amendment for Health Department, Food & Lodging

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
15-5-12-230.00	Technical	556.76	
15-5-12-312.00	Travel	500.00	
15-3-12-360.01	DHHS funds	1056.76	

8. Budget Amendment – FEMA Reimbursement

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
60-372-320.21	FEMA Reimbursement	1070	
19-309-320.21	FEMA Reimbursement	485	
10-300-320.21	FEMA Reimbursement	14300	
15-310-320.21	FEMA Reimbursement	8125	
16-300-320.21	FEMA Reimbursement	7765	
		31745	
10-413-126.00	Overtime-Finance	2030	
10-420-126.00	Overtime-PIO	565	
10-421-126.00	Overtime-Human Resources	165	
10-424-126.00	Overtime-MIS	1120	
10-426-126.00	Overtime- Bldgs. & Grnds.	1070	
10-431-126.00	Overtime – Sheriff	2700	
10-432-126.00	Overtime – Detention	2800	
10-433-126.00	Overtime-Emeg. Svcs	1685	
10-434-126.00	Overtime-Communications	1340	
15-510-126.00	Overtime-Health	8125	
16-510-126.00	Overtime-Social Svcs.	7765	
60-472-126.00	Overtime-Landfill	1070	
10-493-126.00	Overtime-Engineering	825	
19-506-126.00	Overtime-Mental Health	485	
		31,745	

ITEMS FOR DECISION

NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REQUEST FOR ADDITION TO STATE MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM - EDDY DAVIS & DANNY TAYLOR

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Vice Chairman Savage, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Salem Circle and Bryant Circle in Lake Glenwood Subdivision and Devenwood Drive and Gooding Street in Devenwood Subdivision.

Danny Taylor, District Engineer for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, was present and explained to the new commissioners the process involved in getting roads added to the State Maintained Secondary Road System.

Vice Chairman Savage asked for updated list on road paving in Pitt County. Mr. Taylor responded that he would provide an updated list for the Board.

RELOCATION REQUEST FOR VETERANS MONUMENTS - BAXTER POWELL, PRESIDENT OF VETERANS COUNCIL

Mr. Baxter Powell stated that he had appeared before the Board earlier with a request to have the two Veterans Monuments at the Courthouse moved to the Greenville Town Commons. However, he did not have the City of Greenville's concurrence prior to that appearance or the letters of support from the Veterans agencies.

Mr. Powell stated that they would like to have the monuments moved because they cannot be seen where they are currently located. He provided the Board with letters from the Veterans Council and other organizations, as well as a consent from the Greenville Jaycees, who had originally donated one of the monuments. Mr. Powell also provided a letter from the City of Greenville providing that they were in agreement with allowing the monuments to be placed on the Greenville Town Commons. He stated he had received no negative feedback on this request.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Gaskins, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted unanimously to grant permission and support the relocation of the Veterans Monuments that are currently located at the Pitt County Courthouse to the City of Greenville Town Commons.

REQUEST TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON ISSUANCE OF INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS – JOHN CHAFFEE, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mr. Chaffee informed the Board that he had a request to schedule a public hearing during the Board of Commissioners' regular meeting on March 15th, on the Issuance of Industrial Revenue Bonds to finance the expansion of an existing industry. The Pitt County Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority has signed an Inducement Agreement with Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc. authorizing the issuance of approximately \$2.5 million in Industrial Revenue Bonds. The project is supported by the Authority and the Pitt County Development Commission because the

expansion will generate new high-wage jobs and will strengthen the economic position of the company and the growers it serves.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the scheduling of a public hearing on March 15th for the purpose of public comment on the Issuance of Industrial Revenue Bonds.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – JOANNE BURGDORFF, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Mrs. JoAnne Burgdorff reported that the Interlocal agreement between the City of Greenville and the County of Pitt was being negotiated. She stated that the County holds the position that no city elected or appointed officials should serve on the Development Commission but the County would like to authorize that two of the fifteen members of the Pitt County Development Commission may be nominated by the City of Greenville. She stated that the City of Greenville opposed the wordage used in the agreement and returned the agreement to the County with a request that the only requirement for the member be that the member reside in Greenville City limits.

Commissioner Johnson said that this policy of not allowing City elected or appointed officials to serve on the commission is in keeping with County's nominations to the Greenville Utilities Commission. The Development Commission is supposed to be a citizens' advisory board. He suggested that the County Attorney advise Greenville City Council that the Board of Commissioners want to maintain that this is a citizens advisory position. Vice Chairman Savage agreed with Commissioner Johnson's comments but also stated that this should stay in keeping with the Development Commission's by-laws.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Board voted unanimously to indicate to the Greenville City Council that the Board of Commissioners' objective is to keep the Pitt County Development Commission as a citizen advisory board, as is the Greenville Utilities Commission.

JOINT MEETING WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH AREA BOARD - TOM ROBINSON, COUNTY MANAGER

The Board discussed a need to be brought up-to-date on the reduction-in-force policy which the Mental Health Area Board has pursued and suggested having a joint meeting with the Mental Health Area Board.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Savage, the Board voted unanimously to schedule a joint meeting of the Board of Commissioners and Mental Health Area Board to be held on February 24, 1999 at 5:30 p.m. in the Agricultural Building Auditorium.

Ms. Banks informed the Board that she would be out of the office at a conference on this date. Chairman James stated the Board would find someone to take her place for that meeting.

CHANGE ORDER FOR COURTHOUSE - PHIL DICKERSON, COUNTY ENGINEER

Mr. Phil Dickerson reported that T. A. Loving Company, General Contractor, omitted some work that should have been included in the plans. Some of it can be left off until next phase. The price submitted to construct walls in the new addition adjacent to the annex exterior walls on all four floors is \$65,855. The contractor has included additional steel bracing and chase walls at stairwells 2 and 6 which were not detailed in the drawings. The total Change Order amount is \$71,490.

UPON MOTION by Vice Chairman Savage, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Change Order by T. A. Loving Company in the amount of \$71,490.

Commissioner Hammond asked the Board to consider two parking spaces for Sandra Gaskins, Clerk of Court and Judy Tart, Register of Deeds at the Courthouse. Mr. Robinson said the Planning Committee would take it under consideration and bring a recommendation back to the Board.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

FOLLOWUP ON JOINT MEETING WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Chairman James stated his concern about the Pactolus and G. R. Whitfield Schools needs and that they need to be updated. He expressed a need to have more information on these schools and the plans for updating the schools from the Board of Education.

Commissioner Owens motioned to approve the Reimbursement Resolution that the Finance Officer had presented to the Board so that the County could be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in purchasing property for the schools. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. Commissioner Gaskins stated that the Finance Officer doesn't have a current appraisal on the property. Ms. Bryan said the County must have a number of items completed prior to the Certificates of Participation moving forward but the Reimbursement Resolution was intended so the County can be paid back for any expenses incurred. Ms. Bryan stated that the Reimbursement Resolution will have a not to exceed amount which will be brought back to the Board. Mr. Dickerson said that he had received the appraisal this morning with the price being \$14,500 per acre. Dr. Sosne said that Don Speight is still willing to sell the property at the original price but asked that a condition that the property may be farmed until the schools need to actually start using it. Dr. Sosne agreed to this condition. Dr. Sosne said that price is good until the end of February. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Reimbursement Resolution motion.

Commissioner Owens motioned that this Board direct the County staff to work with the Board of Education staff to begin the process with the Local Government Commission to acquire long term financing for the new high school, the new elementary school and the improvements at Pactolus and G. R. Whitfield schools.

Commissioner Bowen stated he wanted another joint meeting of the School Board and Board of Commissioners to be scheduled. Dr. Sosne said that the Board of Education thought the Board of Commissioners would not delay on this project and that any delay at this point would mean losing a whole year on building the high school. He stated that if the Board approves it today, a new high school would be built by August 2002. Dr. Sosne said that he thought the Board was going to approve the \$38 million needed in order to start with hiring an architect on the new high school. He said that they do not have an architect in place for the plans on Pactolus and G.R. Whitfield schools and that the Pactolus plans are tied to the Belvoir facility. He stated that they plan to move some Pactolus students to the Belvoir school because of overcrowding at Pactolus, but the plans were not specific at this time. Chairman James said the Board of Commissioners is committed to work with the Board of Education, but they have not seen any plans and they want the Manager to say how much money the County can afford to finance in order to do the things requested by the Board of Education.

Commissioner Johnson said that he was hearing that time was of the essence so the Board of Commissioners should move forward with the plans. Commissioner Bowen said that he and Commissioner Shank are supposed to be the Board's liaisons with the School Board but that they did not get invited or receive notice of the last School Board meeting until after the meeting. Dr. Sosne said that by delaying the project the County may lose a whole year of occupying the high school and maybe the elementary school. He stated that many people left the meeting Wednesday night thinking that all of this was only a formality. Dr. Sosne said the Board of Education made a specific request to borrow \$38 million and authorize them to use their own money and that the Board of Commissioners was just the fiscal agent.

Mr. Robinson said he thought \$38 million was part of the agreement. He stated that the Board also expressed comments that if they had the money then they could move forward with other projects. He stated that the Board of Commissioners needed to authorize the series of motions, to obtain bond counsel, and such in order to move forward with the projects.

Ms. Bryan said that a dollar amount had not been set on the Reimbursement Resolution today and that she would return to the Board with that not to exceed number once it has been confirmed. Chairman James said that he wants a specific amount allocated for each one of these schools under consideration.

Mr. Robinson stated that a series of four motions had been prepared by the Finance Officer for the Board's approval.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted unanimously to direct the staff to work with the Board of Education staff to begin the process with the Local Government Commission to acquire long term financing for the new high school, the new elementary school and the improvements at Pactolus and G.R. Whitfield schools.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to allow staff to continue established

relationships with Poyner & Spruill, LLP (Bond Counsel) and Wachovia Capital Markets Inc. (Underwriters) to provide services related to new debt issue.

Mr. Robinson noted that not all of the items were addressed which were brought up by the Board of Commissioners at the joint meeting. He stated that the Board of Commissioners had requested a plan from the Schools on how they intend to raise the performance levels of the students. Commissioner Shank agreed that they did not complete the agenda and asked for another meeting to be scheduled as soon as possible. Mr. Robinson asked the Board to give him suggestions on dates for the joint meeting.

Commissioner Hammond stated that the Board of Education is elected to spend and that the Board of Commissioners is elected to appropriate funds. He said that the Board of Education has the responsibility to prioritize their needs and the Board of Commissioners should not micro-manage how the money is going to be spent.

The Board discussed the process. Commissioner Owens stated that the Board of Commissioners needs to wait until the Board of Education brings the Board of Commissioners requests back to the Board of Commissioners. Vice Chairman Savage endorsed the idea of the Chairman to work with the staff and the Board of Education to resolve ongoing issues. Chairman James opposed this suggested and stated that this is the purpose of having two liaisons for the School Board.

Commissioner Ward commented that the capital outlay had been presented but the Board of Commissioners had not been presented with the Board of Education's budget and requests. She suggested a meeting needed to be held for listening to concerns and for the Board of Education to make proposals and expectations where there would be no voting on items.

Commissioner Bowen recommended and requested that the School Board notify himself and Commissioner Shank of future Board of Education meetings.

REQUEST FOR AGENDA PREVIEW MEETINGS - TOM ROBINSON

Mr. Robinson said Chairman James had requested a special time for the Board of Commissioners to come together in an agenda preview meeting and suggested every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. prior to the regular meetings on the first and third Mondays of the month. These meetings would be open to the public. There were differing views of this need and the times suggested for the meetings.

Vice Chairman Savage motioned, seconded by Commissioner Hammond to continue with the current procedure for meetings. Commissioner Shank noted the increased amount of time the Manager is having to spend with Commissioners discussing the agendas. Chairman James stated that the Commissioners would not have to come unless they felt the need.

Commissioners in favor of the motion were: Hammond, Gaskins, James, and Savage. Commissioners opposed to the motion were: Ward, Shank, Johnson, Bowen, and Owens.

Commissioner Johnson motioned to have pre-agenda meetings on Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. prior to the regular board meetings on Mondays, with no action being taken. Commissioner Hammond seconded the motion. Commissioner Savage stated that he could not meet on Friday mornings and suggested the time be changed. Commissioner Johnson offered a change for the meetings to be at 3:00 p.m on Wednesdays. Commissioner Bowen opposed that time because he noted that Commissioner Gaskins comes in each Friday morning to meet with the Manager.

Discussion on the pre-agenda meetings continued. Vice Chairman Savage stated that he would not be able to attend and was not confident that if a quorum was present, that no action would be taken. Vice Chairman Savage said the General Assembly established a schedule of two meetings per month.

Mrs. Burgdorff said that many counties have pre-agenda meetings and that the central staff spends a lot of time going over the agenda items with individual commissioners. She stated that if no action is taken the meeting is considered just for informational purposes.

Commissioner Johnson offered a motion to change the meeting time to Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Owens moved to adjourn the meeting but withdrew his motion and changed it to a motion to go into closed session. Vice Chairman Savage seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Burgdorff read the General Statute authorizing the Board to go into closed session as follows: NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matter relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session.

Commissioner Johnson motioned for the Board to hold informational meetings pertaining to the agenda on each Friday prior to the regular board meetings at 9:00 a.m. and further that no action would be taken at these meetings. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. Commissioners in favor of the motion were: Gaskins, Ward, James, Bowen, Johnson, and Shank. Commissioners opposed to the motion were: Savage, Hammond and Owens. The motion was approved.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC

Clerk to the Board