

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 3, 1999**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session meeting on Monday, May 3, 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 County Manager
Melonie Bryan, Director of Financial Services

Call to Order and welcome by Chairman James.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Johnson.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Savage.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chairman Savage asked to be excused around 10 a.m. for out of town business.
Mr. Robinson stated that the need for the closed session was no longer viable and asked the Board to remove the closed session. The Board discussed removing the Airport Authority appointment from the agenda.

UPON MOTION by Vice Chairman Savage, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted eight to one to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO THE BOARD

Nancy Colville comments were as follows:

- Mental Health issue. She stated that there is no way the Board of Commissioners can win with this situation. She said that once people are appointed to the Mental Health Area Board, they become anti-county commissioners. She reported that there are ten (10) State/City/ County employees on the Mental Health Board. Ms. Colville stated that their most important board meeting was on their budget, but there was no quorum present. She stated that one board member abstained from voting because their budget was presented fifteen (15) minutes prior to requesting a vote and there was not ample opportunity to review the budget. She stated her support for placing the Mental Health Center's finances under the County Finance Officer's authority.
- Keith Cooper spoke on different races and his desire to have a council that would focus on racial diversity. He opposed the Board's decision to have a county member on the City of Greenville's Human Relations Council because he said that one county official cannot represent over 100,000 people. He stated that the County Commissioners cannot pretend the problems do not exist. He asked the Board to reconsider an advisory council on race. He stated over 200 supporters signed a petition in support of the proposed council. He stated that all races need to be able to get along.
- Michael House, Mayor of Ayden - spoke in support of the requested advisory council on race. He stated that diversity in this County should be an asset and it needs to be taken advantage of in this society. He supported a Human Relationship Committee that could function in way that brings out the positive differences in races.
- Vernon Morrison - spoke on race relations noting the recent situation with Walter Williams comments. He stated that Mr. Williams has done a lot to help East Carolina University, such as the funding for Williams arena. He said this Board of Commissioners should come forward with a statement on this matter. He said he thought people were making something out of nothing. Mr. Morrison also stated that Greenville Utilities Commission bills cannot get much higher because the poor people cannot stand much more of an electric bill. He noted that the Greenville Utilities Commission gave the City of Greenville \$4.0 million from their profits for their budget. He stated that they need to better utilize their staff and lower utility bills.
- Leroy Hardy - resident of Tranters Creek area, stated his support of a "no wake zone" to prevent destruction of private property along the creek.
- Mary Hull, lives on Tranters Creek on the Beaufort County side, and requested the "no wake zone" for safety's sake noting that there have been many close calls for people to have accidents. She stated she was begging the Board to do something before the situation takes somebody's life.

Chairman James said that Pitt County supported the request for a "no wake zone" when it was requested by residents in the past.

Commissioner Terry Shank stated she would like background information from the County Attorney to be distributed to the Board members on her research and recommendation concerning the Human Relations Council.

Vice Chairman Savage noted that he had sent a letter to Dr. Howard Sosne concerning the Belvoir school and unreasonable scheduling of school lunch times. He stated that Dr. Sosne's response was not appropriate. He asked the Board to consider sending a resolution to the Board of Education asking for a more responsible response to his letter, and to note that the vote against school bond referendum was countywide, not just from the Belvoir area as Dr. Sosne had insinuated. Vice Chairman Savage wanted the resolution to strongly encourage the school officials to look at options which would allow all the students to eat lunch at a reasonable time of day.

Vice Chairman Savage motioned, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, to ask the County Attorney to draw up a resolution to send to the School Board asking for them to make an attempt to put school lunch times on a better schedule.

Chairman James said they take plates back to their rooms in some schools if there is not enough room in the cafeteria. Commissioner Johnson said he was concerned that the County Board of Commissioners should not get involved in the day to day operations of the schools. Commissioner Hammond said the County appropriates the money to operate the schools. He said heard that some students are going to lunch as early as 9:45 a.m., in the Belvoir and South Greenville schools. Commissioner Shank noted that this item was not on the agenda. She stated that if this needs action, she would like to have it placed on the next meeting agenda.

Commissioner Bowen said that all students should be treated the same. Commissioner Ward asked for some clarification on this situation. Mrs. Burgdorff stated that the Board of Commissioners only has budgetary authority for the schools.

Chairman James called for a vote on the motion to send the School Board a resolution about better scheduled school lunch times. The motion failed with a four to five vote. Commissioners in favor of the motion were: Hammond, James, Savage, and Bowen. Commissioners opposed were: Owens, Gaskins, Ward, Shank, and Johnson.

ITEMS FOR REPORT

Manager's Report

- a. Invitation for Board to attend National Guard Armory's "Conley's Competition on May 23rd from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
- b. Legislative Briefing in Raleigh, May 5th. Mr. Robinson reviewed Pitt County's Legislation requests as follows: Local option sales tax (supported by referendum, with five year sunset provision), Pitt County Investments, Landfill Reimbursement Funds, and Lower Gun Permit Fees from \$20 to \$5. Ms. Burgdorff reported that the County would be hosting a luncheon for the Pitt County Legislative Delegation. Mr. Robinson also stated that Ayden and Farmville have bills for extended extraterritorial jurisdiction. He also stated that there was a bill for statewide lottery and asked for a consensus vote on support of this lottery so this opinion could be shared with the Legislators. Commissioner Johnson stated he was not in support of the lottery but the other members were in favor of supporting the lottery.
- c. Budget Sessions to be held on May 18, 19 and 20 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
- d. Courthouse Tour, May 21, 2:00 p.m.
- e. Bell Arthur Rescue District Election Report
- f. Peace Officers Recognition at the Courthouse on May 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Vice Chairman Savage introduced Mr. Reginald Spain, the new Executive Director for Martin Community Action, who was in the audience.

Solid Waste Report - Tom Robinson reporting for Phil Dickerson

Mr. Robinson reporting in Phil Dickerson's absence, on the Solid Waste Patrol Officer position. He stated that Mr. Dickerson changed the Recycling Coordinator position due to lack of qualified candidates and to fill a need in another area, to the Solid Waste Patrol Officer with official legal authority for arrest. He stated that he felt the Board needed to be informed of this change. Commissioner Hammond stated he was concerned that the County had a reduction in force and then has established a new position in the Solid Waste program. Mr. Robinson said this position does not come from general fund revenue but from solid waste revenues and the funds can only be used within this budget area.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Gaskins, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted unanimously to approve the items for consent as listed below:

1. April 5, 1999 Minutes
2. April 14, 1999 Minutes
3. Donation of Two Basketball Goals and Backboards

Two basketball goals, backboards and mounting assembly donated to Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation and thankfully received by Alice F. Keene

4. Schedule Public Hearing for Transfer of Frontiervision Franchise

Public hearing scheduled for June 7, 1999 for transfer of franchise from Frontiervision to their Adelphia Communications as part of a sale agreement

5. REAL Crisis Grant Application

Recipient of grant from N.C. Dept. of Crime Control and Public Safety to provide assistance to individuals of Latino descent for \$67,628 and a local match of \$22,542. The local match will be the responsibility of the Real Crisis Center.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Appointment to Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority - Susan Banks

Ms. Banks explained that the Airport Authority had a vacant position for County representation due to the passing away of Mr. John Bizzell.

Vice Chairman Savage nominated Linwood Wright. Commissioner Ward nominated Earl Brown. Commissioner Hammond motioned to close the nominations and Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. The motion to close nominations passed unanimously.

Chairman James called for a vote on the nominations. Commissioners Ward, Johnson, Shank and Owens voted for Earl Brown. Commissioners Gaskins, James, Savage, Bowen and Hammond voted for Linwood Wright. Mr. Linwood Wright was appointed to the Airport Authority fill the unexpired term of John Bizzell.

ABC Capital Needs Requests/Award Bids - Charles Waller, ABC Board Chairman

Mr. Waller reviewed their previous request for use of capital projects funding. He said they had requested \$225,000 be set aside for this project which was approved contingent on them returning to the Board with contract proposals. Mr. Waller reported that the proposal from Jimmie Hite, Architects, was for 1,390 square feet, that would house a classroom and law enforcement staff and renovation of the existing space. On April 22, the proposals were received and ranged from \$271,000 to \$226,000. Coastal construction was the low bidder and they were continuing to look for ways to lower the cost. He stated that this is a no frills construction. The site work represents \$25,000. Mr. Waller stated that he had conferred with Phil Dickerson, County Engineer, who had verbally expressed his approval. He stated that they were requesting the Board give final approval for use ABC funds in the amount of \$225,000 and an additional \$20,000 for furnishings. He said the Architect has expressed concern that this may be cutting the budget too close on the project.

Chairman James asked about Mr. Dickerson's comments since Mr. Dickerson was not present. Mr. Waller stated that he did not have Mr. Dickerson's comments in writing, but assured the Board that he had received Mr. Dickerson's approval on the plans and project.

Commissioner Bowen motioned to table this item until Mr. Dickerson could provide his comments. Vice Chairman Savage seconded the motion. Commissioners in favor of tabling the motion were: Gaskins, James, Savage and Bowen. Commissioners opposed to tabling the motion were Owens, Ward, Shank, Johnson and Hammond. The motion to table this item failed.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted five to four to approve the request for use of capital funds for \$225,000 for construction costs and an additional \$20,000 for furnishings. Commissioners in favor of this motion were: Owens, Ward, Hammond, Johnson and Shank. Commissioners opposed to this motion were: James, Savage, Gaskins and Bowen. Mr. Robinson reminded the Board that the ABC Board has the authority to award the bids for this project and does not need the Board of Commissioners approval.

Request for "No Wake Zone" at Tranter's Creek - John Bulow

Mr. Bulow, Assistant County Manager, stated that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners approved a request for a "no wake zone" on Tranter's Creek ten years ago but Commissioners from Beaufort County did not agree with the request so the Wildlife Commission did not approve the "no wake zone" on Tranter's Creek at that time. He stated that there has been a renewed interest in a "no wake zone" and that the Beaufort County residents appear to be in support of the zone also.

Vice Chairman Savage left at this time, 10:10 a.m.

Mr. Bulow stated that jet skis have been the problem on Tranter's Creek. He said that Beaufort County has a small area and Pitt County has a larger area on this creek. He recommended to the Board that the staff of both Beaufort and Pitt counties, get together and negotiate a "no wake zone" that the Wildlife Resources Commission can support. He stated that time is not of the essence because it will take time before this request gets through because of all the necessary steps to be taken to get this approved. Mr. Leroy Hardee shared pictures of the area which also showed the wear and tear on the bulkheads in the creek. Residents from Beaufort County were present and spoke in favor of the proposed "no wake" zone. Commissioner Gaskins asked if there was still opposition from Beaufort County. Mr. Hardee stated that the opposition would come from the jet skiing and boating population which were not necessarily Beaufort County residents. Mr. Bulow stated that the people who request the zone have to pay for upkeep of the buoy. Mr. Hardee stated that he has a petition signed by residents along this creek requesting the "no wake zone."

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, to direct the Assistant County Manager to get together with Beaufort County officials, as quickly as possible, and make a recommendation to the Wildlife Commission for a "no wake zone" for Tranter's Creek.

Mr. James Laney, Beaufort County resident in Arbor Bluff subdivision said that a boat ramp has been put in down from where they live and advertisements are in the paper. Since there are so many tournaments, there are a lot of boats in that area. He stated that the creek is 30 to 50 ft wide and shallow where it is entered into and some bass boats will come in at 60 miles per hour. He said this speed is uncalled for in a curved creek of this size.

Mr. Sam Hull said the whole community is united in the request for a "no wake zone." He said it is one of the most dangerous curves on the water. He reviewed the pictures, and suggested the Board imagine three skiers coming one way and a boat coming downstream at sixty miles per hour. He stated the boat coming down the creek at sixty miles per hour would not see the skiers and the skiers can not see the boat until it is too late. He stated that the Arbor Bluffs Homeowners Association is one hundred percent supportive of the "no wake zone."

Chairman James called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously to support the request for a “no wake zone” on Tranter’s Creek.

Mr. Bulow stated that he will expedite this request but reminded the Board that this request will not be addressed during this session of the Legislature. Chairman James asked the Assistant Manager to pursue this request and provide a report back to the Board.

Constitution and Bylaws of Farmers’ Market - Mitch Smith

Mr. Mitch Smith, Cooperative Extension Director, stated that a draft of the Constitution and By-laws of the Farmer’s Market went to each of the vendors on April 14th. They had been reviewed by the County Attorney and the County Manager prior to distribution. He asked for the Board’s approval of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Farmers’ Market.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Constitution and Bylaws of the Farmers’ Market as presented by Mitch Smith, Cooperative Extension Director.

Establish Tax District for Falkland, Farmville and Winterville - Bobby Joyner

Mr. Joyner informed the Board that there is a new procedure to establish a tax district. Chairman James asked about the State reviewing the rescue responses in Pitt County. Mr. Joyner said it will be July 1 before they expect the report to be completed. Commissioner Owens said that two of these requests were within his area and that it would be premature to take action until the report from the State had been received with their recommendations.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioners Gaskins, the Board unanimously voted to postpone taking action on the request to establish a tax district for Falkland, Farmville, and Winterville Rescue Squads until the report from the State on our Rescue Squads is received.

Commissioner Hammond asked how many districts were left without a tax. Mr. Joyner responded that there would be three rescue squads remaining once these three are approved. Commissioner Johnson asked if a public hearing is required. Mr. Joyner stated that the public hearing is required with one of the processes and that all of the residents of that district must be notified. If they use the petition process 35% residents signatures are required.

City of Greenville Grant Request - GTP Loan Request - Tom Robinson

Mr. Robinson stated that the City of Greenville has requested support for an application for a \$15,000 grant from the Global Transpark for environmental work. He stated that Mr. John Chaffee, Economic Development Commission, has reviewed the application and recommends approval.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted seven to one to approve the City of Greenville’s request for support of their grant application of \$15,000 to the Global Transpark. Commissioner Bowen opposed the motion.

Mental Health Area Board Appointments - Susan Banks/Dr. Yolanda Burwell

Ms. Banks stated that Dr. Yolanda Burwell, Chairman of the Mental Health Area Board was present, and that there were two vacant positions on the Area Board vacated by Worth Worthington and Raymond Reddrick.

Commissioner Owens nominated John Ferren to serve on the Mental Health Board. Chairman James called for a vote on John Ferren’s appointment. Commissioners in favor of appointing John Ferren were: Owens, Bowen, Ward, James, Gaskins and Shank.

Commissioner Bowen nominated Louise Stokes. Chairman James called for a vote on the appointment of Louise Stokes to the Mental Health Area Board. The nomination passed unanimously. Dr. Burwell said that the Area Board can have up to 25 members. With the new appointments the Area Board now has 19 current members.

The Board requested that each position be identified. Commissioner Shank stated her concern that the appointment process be refined. She asked that the Board receive the information on appointments at one meeting and make the appointments at the following meeting.

Commissioner Ward noted that Ms. Banks was current working on writing a procedure for this process. Ms. Banks stated that she had been working on a procedure.

Commissioner Hammond said he would like the specialty areas defined and who represents the at-large areas.

Dr. Burwell said that the current Mental Health Area Board is working diligently to serve the County. Chairman James expressed his appreciation for the work this board has done. Dr. Burwell invited Chairman James to attend a Mental Health Area Board and express his appreciation to the whole Area Board.

Convention and Visitors Authority - Susan Banks

Ms. Banks informed the Board that they had received a recommendation from the Greenville City Council to appoint Ms. Connie Chase, operator of the Courtyard by Marriott.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted to accept the Greenville City Council's nomination and appoint Ms. Connie Chase to the Convention and Visitors Authority.

Schedule Public Hearing on Reimbursement Resolution - Melonie Bryan

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously to schedule a public hearing on the Reimbursement Resolution for the financing of the high school property for the May 17th regular meeting.

Ms. Bryan noted that the Insert that ran in the Daily Reflector on the County's budget had received quite a number of responses. Ms. Bryan stated that they would like this information to be part of the minutes.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted unanimously to put the results from the public survey information in the minutes.

What do you see as the most important issues facing Pitt County?

- Education
- Growth & Development
- The growth of the city & expansion of services
- Ways to use people on probation who must complete community service; they could be used to clean up litter (our town & county are both filthy; it's embarrassing)
- Mental Health fiasco - Get rid of incompetents!
- Local supplements for teachers!
- The steady increase of corrupt police officers. It seems officers are using their position and power to pick up the local college women. I know of two instances and would be willing to assert that there are more. I'm sure other abuses are also taking place.
- We should have school choice to force improvement in public schools.
- Pitt County is growing. The growth should increase the tax base and pay for services to the expanded areas. Instead we get increasing taxes to pay for growth - backwards.
- Highways - Traffic; Crime - Theft
- Increasing the quality of K12 education in our county. Provide adequate buildings and get the job done **BEFORE** the need becomes a crisis. You get what you pay for, and we want better K12 schools!
- Leadership. Too much welfare socialism is harmful. Look at Russia.
- Protection of air and water quality buffer areas for streams & rivers. Garbage cleanup on roadsides. Mental Health Services.
- County-wide zoning/planning. Economic development....education of work force
- Need for new schools and repairs to existing schools and higher teacher pay.
- Planning for new roads not what we need now. You have a 10 year backlog with DOT . I mean lines on maps now so people can't build houses, factories and offices where a road will be needed someday. This would reduce road cost.
- Traffic problems & crime

- Human Services & Education. I think the County should see to it that services to citizens needing Mental Health are NOT cut - if the County had done this job right, the deficit would have been noticed in time.
- Educational needs & providing funding for our children's educations. They are our future. Also, more emphasis on law enforcement and funds to support them.
- Unless you travel on Greenville Blvd every day you have no idea of the congestion-rude drivers who never use their turn signals. Passing in the turning lane- yes it happened to me. Get off your chairs & fix Fire Tower Road. Have you sat on Arlington for 5 lights to cross the Blvd.
- The Mental Health situation. I live in Pitt County, why should I suffer for people in other counties to get care and the Pitt County patients get less care. I pay taxes here. They don't!
- Education, Law Enforcement, Fire Protection
- Caring for the indigent needing health services (physical & mental) Providing quality education to students.
- (1)Economic Development/Transportation, (2)Education, (3)Debt Services & lower taxes, (4)Public Safety, (5)Environment, (6)All others
- (1)Zoning, (2)Schools, (3)Economic development, (4)Crime prevention
- Transportation - we need better & safer roads. Fire Tower road has become a "death trap". Improvement of Airport - I am tired of driving to Raleigh for a flight. I get an ear ache when I fly on the "puddle jumpers" out of Greenville.
- Law Enforcement
- Public Safety, Education
- First & Foremost, EDUCATION! Our County Commissioners need to support more, much more spending on educational programs!
- County Zoning, School
- Economic Development & School Security
- Infrastructure (including transportation) inadequate for expected growth
- Leaders with a vision...preservation of public education, assimilation of various ethnic groups, decided support of Law Enforcement, and preservation of ethical values.
- Education, Land use - planning. Zoning & Accountability for the school system!
- Education, Public safety, Human Resources
- Infrastructure - Roads, Lights
- Education, Human Services, Public Safety, Cultural and Recreation
- Increase Public Safety, need more deputy's protecting us and they need better equipment. Why does Greenville Police Department have more officer's than the Sheriff? Why are we losing Deputies to Greenville Police Department?
- The status of our education. We must spend more money on our children, their teachers and the administration.
- Slum landlords, drug pushers, violence, sex offenders, murderers, and rapists.
- Education!
- Education and Environment
- Greater emphasis on education. Higher wages for teachers, more money spent per student, decent schools with room to grow! Safety, well being of our law abiding citizens. Less government in general with commissioners who show up for the job and listen to all of us.
- Too many special interest groups who think they deserve governmental services, when a drive to raise money to achieve their goals would suffice.

- Education, Human Services and Economic Development, in that order. Suggested budget (based on each \$100) reflects those priorities. ONLY IF, ALONG WITH IT, “government waste” and politics involved in government is curbed!
- Public Safety, Law Enforcement, and Education - School security
- Getting Mental Health program on solid financial ground. The tobacco crisis - the lack of funds the County will have due to reduced income of people connected to tobacco.
- Traffic problems, road construction, and better schools
- Please whatever you do not Raise property taxes. Raise sales tax. It is fair and more equally shared.
- Crime (Public Safety), Better roads, Water and sewer.
- Schools - Higher “ups” getting too much and lower employees not enough.
- The rapid physical and economic growth.
- Better roads and streets.
- Education-more schools and vocational programs in High Schools, Partnership with municipalities. County-wide zoning- plan compatible land use roads. Affordable housing meeting-exceeding minimum housing standards.
- Lack of Spanish-speaking individuals in County agencies.
- Alternative source of income for agricultural producers, etc. Conflict of economic development/industrial growth and age production. Heritage and sources of income population growth.
- Environmental protective services, public safety, human services, courts overload and backlogs.
- The growth of Pitt County, in terms of industry, increases the school population. You must make provision for the growing number of students and their needs to learn new technology.
- Zoning and Planning. Need to let the towns extend ETJ and approve as they deem necessary.
- Curbing and stopping the un-needed growth of Government at City and County levels.
- Economic Development
- We, as a County will become stagnant, if we do not entice industry to move into our area.
- Using my money more wisely, too many people wanting a hand out, nobody listens.
- Using the tax payers money wisely. Each department asks for twice what they want. You give them half. Looks like you did something. But that is what they wanted to start with.
- Bring spending on our students up to the state average. Attract and keep good teachers by increasing teacher supplements.
- Roads, Roads, Roads. The road system is not keeping up with the expansion, especially around Greenville. The County also needs a sewer system. Crime is always an issue.
- I think we need to boost Pitt County Schools money until we can pay educators at or above the state average and provide quality facilities/technology - if we invest in our future, some of the other problems will correct themselves.
- Mental Health Services! Salaries to Teacher Assistants still around poverty level.
- Lost a lot of “good” teachers because of lack of concern for their financial support.
- Our schools are not in the shape they need to be. Money is not plentiful for basic school needs and teachers are underpaid.
- I would like to see our schools and educational means raised to the state average. We are losing far to many teachers to other states and children to private schools.
- Education - but I don’t respect the School Board as much as I’d like. Education - controlling... and hog pollution.

- Planned growth, environmental protection, improved schools and public safety. Crime is too high for demographics and fire/rescue is under funded.
- (1)Public Safety, (2)Education, (3)General Government, (4)Solid Waste Disposal, (5)Soil and Water Conservation, (6)Energy Assistance, (7)Environmental Health Services, (8)Communicable Disease Prevention, (9)Work First Employment Assistance, (10)Medicaid, (11)Economic Development
- "Livability" issues - transportation, cleanliness, etc., Quality of Public Education.
- Education - our public schools must be better funded: teachers must have supplies, computers must be in every school and salaries are ridiculously low.
- Hire more honest people to go out checking many people on disability benefits. I understand they claim they are not able to work, but do. The doctor's should be investigated as well.
- Integrity of all County employees, public safety, education and Environmental protection.

What services would you like to see expanded or reduced? Why?

- Expanded- A public education. Teachers must be trained to think, to communicate the concept of computer literacy. Concern for the weak and helpless.
- Expanded- infrastructure, public transit, and public education(through secondary level)
- Reduced - PCC funding (that's a state responsibility) Also, reduce overlap/duplication between City and County.
- Economic Development & School Security
- We are paying enough taxes - We should not have to pay for garbage to be picked up!
- Reduce Human Services. Too much money going into administration. More should go to the people who need it. DSS in particular is a **JOKE!**
- Would like to see a noise ordinance for County. We live just outside the city limits and cars come by at all hours with music blasting. This needs to be controlled.
- We need an Indoor Pool (year round) for the general public. We are excluded from the University Health Center and the Aquatic Center is on the other side of town. How about a nice YMCA for the public?
- Expand economic development to help farmers allotment holders.
- Streamline/Reduce general govt., better education facilities, expand planning to ensure orderly growth/transportation.
- Increase Mental Health services for mental disabilities & developmental disabilities. Don't reduce services for the critically handicapped citizen.
- Size reduced - Human Services. Why 40% of the County budget is far too much. The Human Services program is taken advantage of and it is too broad. County help is good but self help is best.
- Expanded. I would like to see Mental Health rehire the dedicated doctors and caseworkers back.
- Garbage collection, Fire and Police quick to respond
- Services to the elderly and disabled expanded and less funding for high administrative salaries and operating costs.

- We must plan ahead for school needs. Pitt County is always playing “catch up” on educational needs.
- Taxes reduced
- Additional in-service training for Sheriff’s department on domestic violence- particularly when children are on the scene.
- Mental Health services need to be expanded. The Stantonsburg Road recycling center should resume Sunday morning hours.
- The County should do more for Parks & Recreation and not rely so much on the City.
- Reduce public school assistance, reduce taxes, expand help to animals
- Reduce Human Services - too many dependant people
General Government - it’s too fat
General Service Debt - we should pay as we go and not borrow
- The traffic cameras that might be installed- seems to me that they are going to cause more accidents than they are going to prevent.
- Increase Local supplements for teachers- Pitt County is behind other counties
Use people on probation to clean up roadways
Funds for homeless and truly poor (particularly elderly)
- Reduce Wasted Government spending-forget about the convention center
Quit giving tax dollars to undeserving or special interest groups
- I would like to see private institutions manage many of the services listed under quality of life.
- Education issues have been on-going and if we expect continued growth we have to have the educated people to support it.
- Education and vocational training - need to train students to work - most Pitt County school children won’t make it to any college. They need skills to work as welders, assemblers etc. in industry. Teach things relevant to surviving when they graduate.
- Environmental Protection.
- Expand water and sewer, more police for the County.
- Eliminate any spending on Convention Center. Why put something in an already congested area.
- Water and sewer to all of the County. Education must change to be more accountable for monies spend. This is an important area.
- Illegal immigration and drug abuse.
- It is possible to make our Education system better, in part by changing some of the criteria used: Tenure of ‘Bad’ or inadequate teachers should be OUT! At that point, new teachers would inject ‘new blood’ and new ideas! Human services must be continued, without the politics!
- I would like to see improved Senior citizens facilities, but no new taxes for this.
- Expand education and Public Safety/Education. I would like to see County workers who are polite/honest/ helpful. Stay out of our personal responsibilities , but watch over us as a whole. Protect each individual’s rights to privacy/choice.
- Education and Environment.
- Our children are the generation that will run future government. Expand Education!
- For the Great buses to go all over and run on Sundays because there are some people without means of transportation. The drug addict mothers and fathers who don’t need children. It isn’t fair to people who have kids taken away from them for not doing drugs. The sheriffs patrolling the trailer parks more and being more friendly.
- Reduce the size of the Board of Education.

- The Sheriff and Fire and Rescue needs better equipment. Don't bail out Mental Health, they need to work with what they have.
- Human Services, Education, Public Safety, and General Government.
- Would like to see joint development of City-wide (Greenville) and Countywide bus (if possible) system in conjunction with ECU's Transportation System.
- Expand education - answer is obvious.
- Expand the recreation department, put more recreation like a water park or theme park. Greenville would really get a lot of people in on vacation. Reduce the General Government they ain't doing nothing about the violence. It needs to be reduced.
- Expand: Environmental Protection. If you don't protect it who will?
- In Government, all services have the potential to be run more efficiently, with less money.
- Help Mental Health Services meet their budget.
- I would like to see them hold where they are. No increases.
- None. Like to see them hold their own, no increases
- I would like to see more environmental planning and stricter developmental review before we run out of room and it's too late.
- School Budget. We do not need another High School. We can expand the three current High Schools.
- I would like to see teachers teach and administrative staff cut by $\frac{3}{4}$.
- Expand economic development through out County and improve condition for the smaller towns. Build a working relationship with the smaller towns.
- Quality of life is extremely important.
- Expand Willie M services to defray later public costs if services are not continued at Mental Health center and in school systems.
- Human Services (for all citizens of all economic levels, etc.) Safety, and Recreation.
- More public transportation in the County.
- I am tired of working peoples tax money going to people who could work. I understand most people on food stamps or welfare cannot work. But I feel there are some who are getting a free ride and I would like someone to figure out how to stop it. Give these people litter pick-up jobs or work at the recycling stops, cut grass, do odd jobs for the County Government. I get upset at the beginning/end of the month when the checks are issued and I see people buying alcohol and tobacco when they should be buying food for their children.
- I would like to see the Mental Health centers re-opened. They are invaluable to the schools.
- Increasing Pitt County Schools funding.
- Education increased to fully fund proposed budget. Increase Public Safety.
- Increase efficiency of current food stamp management so that they go to really needy people - not those that are able to work for a living.
- Paying all the expenses for the one's having one baby after another and paying dope addicts when they don't work. Put them on recovery programs.
- Pitt County Mental Health services must be restored, traffic issues must be addressed - traffic lights should be timed consecutively, roads widened, bicycle trails introduced in more areas.
- Improve coordination of traffic flow, expand green belt and green space.
- No expansion.

- Improved schools, law enforcement, and fire/rescue. Schools attract growth and help reduce other problems. Law enforcement is needed now. Fire/Rescue is not ready to handle growth in population.
- I don't understand the Mental Health problems, but the services are needed.

Are there new services you think the County should consider funding with taxes?

- Bike paths - safety issues
- Most new services the County would consider should not be funded entirely with tax money and should be self-sufficient within 5 years.
- No! I gross \$2,958.33 a month; I clear \$1,867.78 a month; This isn't fair. My husband and I are penalized by this country because we don't have kids! Yet, I've never put a dirty diaper in the landfill.
- An internal audit of the Greenville Police Department. I believe there is a massive abuse of power by many officers. One example would be using info from an accident as well as the video for dating purposes.
- No.
- No - Reduce Taxes!
- We should make clear that we think the County must improve K-12 facilities and within three years raise the local funding per pupil to the NC average for counties
- Yes, more Mental Health satellite centers.
- No.
- Invest as a partner in the Smart Start initiatives in the future - invest in Early Childhood
- No.
- Reinstate Mental Health satellites that have been closed due to funding.
- As always more dollars for education. Schools back Foreign Languages at three years and up. Teachers should be better trained i.e. we came in 69 my 5th grader was chastised by the teacher for saying the Statue of Liberty was not in D.C. but in the lower harbor in N.Y.
- Mental Health
- No!
- Absolutely- serve the mentally retarded citizens i.e. increase services for more of mental retardation and physically handicapped as well.
- No. Parks and Recreation facilities
- As I said above we need a recreation center with an indoor swimming facility.
- No!
- Concentrate on what we are doing now and try to better them by putting more money in to all important things such as education.
- Operate it's own landfill- why depend on another county for this services.
- One-stop permitting center for business/building permits.
- Stress placed upon each community within city to be concerned for citizens within the community, especially children and older citizens.
- None.
- New Schools.
- County-wide garbage collection. Sewer and Water
- Not at this time. Convention Center.

- Taxes are high enough, but if I could see the tax money go directly to Public Safety I would agree.
- No. The County needs to hold existing services/organizations more accountable and put more money into education and public safety.
- Yes - Education support of Pitt County Schools.
- Environment.
- No. We should not go on to new things when the same problems exist. We are overburdened coming and going with taxes. Make what is on our plate work first, before going on to new things. Do not spend money that is not there. Cut where you can!
- No. We are taxed more than we should be now.
- No. I think the basic services should be 'cleaned up'. We as citizens are tired and disgusted with the games that are played in local governments. For example, serving in government should be a privilege and not the road to a secure financial future. Cut out the frills within and use those dollars for the communities needs!
- General Debt, Work First Employment assistance.
- From where I sit, we have enough services. We must not depend on government to take care of us totally.
- No.
- No. Please focus on current needs. Thank you for serving our County.
- Have regular school bus drivers all the time. Other Counties do.
- Programs to enhance environmental protection.
- Roads and Streets.
- No. Make the services you offer the best they can be.
- Rural server connections.
- Absolutely not!
- No.
- No. We are doing too much now.
- No. We do not need anymore. They seem to get bigger and bigger every year. No end.
- None.
- To provide new services. Other services should be reduced. We are being nickled and dimed to death.
- More sidewalks throughout the County.
- Funding for in-school services at Elementary level for remediation and discipline concerns.
- Help the Mental Health centers with their budget.
- Make sure we put money into early childhood intervention/parent training. Our children need a lot of help.
- Parks and Recreation activities. Transportation throughout the County.
- No More Taxes!
- Development impact fee to fund sidewalks and bike paths.
- New High School, Zoning must be introduced and enforced. The county is a mess. Neighborhood and public swimming pools (outdoor) every playground should have one. Our summers are hot and long.

- Helping older people attain affordable housing that are not ready for a nursing home. Most places that are available are in the slums.
- No.

Would you be willing to pay increased taxes/fees for these new services?

- Yes - How much?
- No.
- No - adjust within
- Only if taxes were used to better P.C. education
- No!
- Yes!
- Yes!
- No.
- Yes!
- Yes!
- Yes
- Yes
- No!
- Developers should pay a major portion of new school costs, like 5% of each development cost into a school fund.
- Yes
- No
- Yes
- Yes! For K12 Schools
- No!
- No
- Yes
- No! I pay enough! Spend what we have wisely.
- No.
- Yes - Straight up! Don't slap with fee that don't meet needs.
- No!
- Yes.
- Property tax is not fair. Everyone should pay.
- No- Not on property- If we must, then sales taxes(tax on services)
- Police.
- I don't see that this is necessary. Priorities within should change and the dollars could be more appropriately used.
- No.

- No. Enough is enough!
- Yes.
- Yes, if you would do like you say.
- I would be willing to pay for education!
- Yes, only for Public Safety not Mental Health.
- That would depend on the service.
- Property Taxes.
- Yes.
- No.
- No.
- No, make better use of what we have.
- No! paying too much now.
- No.
- Yes, progress is expensive.
- No.
- No, No, No, No!
- Yes.
- Yes, and I am a property (real estate) owner.
- Absolutely yes.
- No, reshuffle.
- It depends on how much of an increase.
- Yes, I favor increased property tax if need be.
- We pay plenty!
- If increase involves upper income having higher tax range. Moderate to lower income persons always get the largest increases.
- N/A
- I've paid my share in my day.
- Yes.
- No. Revamp budget
- Yes.
- No! No! No!
- Not until other existing programs are accountable.
- I'd be willing to pay more.

Other comments/suggestions for the FY 1999-2000 Budget or to improve services to the county citizen's?

- I would recommend analyzing other counties with similar population and growth figures and find what benefits they had and what problems were caused by bad decisions.

- Don't forget you're not spending your money. It is the taxpayers' money. You know in your hearts that much money is being wasted. Be bold and cut out unnecessary spending.
- I believe more attention should be paid to the environment. Everyday I see cars on the road that produce excess amounts of exhaust. More stringent regulations on car's exhaust should be implemented. This is only one area, though there are others that should be addressed.
- The most important way to improve citizens lives is to have less government.
- Reduce taxes associated with public schools - let parents pay! Reduce government employees salaries and benefits.
- We need planning and zoning.
- Thanks to all the commissioners for all the time/effort you put into your work for Pitt County and for the opportunity to respond to this questionnaire!
- I like trees, but I can't see planting trees if we need schools.
- Less funding to County Social Services.
- Help the Mental Health center so no one will suffer without need of services. Send back the doctors at ECU School of Medicine.
- Pitt County Commissioners do a good job, and I thank you for this. A reduction however in the tax rate would be appreciated.
- Please support Mental Health Services. We need to provide services for this population as much so as in the rest of the medical community.
- Reduce unnecessary government services that have little or no benefit to general public. Encourage private sector participation in solving problems of poor & sick.
- More Law Enforcement as to drugs. We have reported drug deals in this neighborhood but no action has been taken.
- Some of our commissioners are either still in the dark ages or actively against our education system. You know who you are and so do the voters. Give our teachers help!
- Use money from hospital sale for new schools. Keep taxes down for older people so we can keep our homes.
- Hold the line and learn to operate at a lesser cost. When you raise taxes I must cut back to adjust this loss of fund.
- I would like to believe a criteria is established with given goals.
- Increase the help for low expense families. Keep guns and violence out of the schools. And increase the police forces.
- We will not continue to grow and progress if you fail to address needs of education!
- Would like to see a consumer protection agency/advocate established to help resolve problems with business community or litigate.
- Make Pitt County's Public Safety the best in the state.
- Shrink the Board of Education- nothing can truly be accomplished with 12 members!
- To tear down all abandon houses. That all races should get along.
- County Commissioners and School Board need to work as partners for Education of our children!
- My budget is unrealistic but if the population were well educated the need for the social services would lessen.
- There are lots of fine and devoted citizens in our County. A drive should be implemented to more efficiently use volunteer services in those important areas of Education and Human Services. This is FREE and usually EXCELLENT use of community power!

- I would like to give input on the areas listed to the right, but I'd like more information about each area before attempting this.
- Eliminate spending on proposed Convention Center.
- You are doing a great job with the budget. Working with a budget is very hard. Keep up the good work.
- This is an excellent tool right here!
- Salary is not the main thing to keep teachers. Condition of schools, classrooms, materials, etc. are just as important. Children even in lower grades are hard to discipline.
- As much as possible keep open meetings, etc., keep information copious and flowing.
- I recommend increased sales taxes to meet educational demand. All property owners should not bear the tax burden.
- Pitt County is an "urban county", you might as well realize that. Face up to it and be willing to tax as services are needed.
- When all industry is cutting back, don't you think government should get some very clear message.
- Sales tax increase a great way to raise revenue.
- The tax payers should get a hand out for a change. Their seems like no end, just gets bigger every year (budget).
- Each department should be more accountable for their part of the money. Mental Health is a good example. Took three or four years to correct problem, should have been corrected first year!
- Improve relationship with School Board so that our children can be served better.
- Be prudent.
- Should develop more towards the west on 264. Once you leave city limits on 264, there is not even a gas station until Wilson!
- To view other method to impose taxes instead of increasing various populations.
- The #1,2, and 3 services should be Education, Public Safety and Human Services.
- Thank you to the Commissioners who are getting involved attending school meetings, gathering people's ideas.
- Don't worry about attracting more growth. Focus on improving the existing infrastructure, etc.
- Do what's best for county property owner and the County as a whole. Cut back, and "do away with" all unnecessary programs.
- Do something with the very expensive building purchased for a Convention Center. Where is the money the County received for PCMH?
- The County planner strongly support five lane improvement on Fire Tower Road to extend its entire length with traffic light at one of the entrances to Treetops. More support for PCC/ESL program to meet needs of the community better.

Commissioners' Comments

Hunting Regulations

Chairman James reported on the Hunting committee. He said they met and there were ten people on the committee. He stated there was a good account of the meeting in the newspaper. He suggested at date of May 17th in the evening at 7:00 p.m. to hold a public hearing on hunting regulations. Commissioner Owens offered a motion with a second by Commissioner Gaskins to schedule this public hearing as stated. Mr. Robinson said that the public needed to be informed of what the Board intends to consider as hunting regulations which have not been provided or presented to the Board of Commissioners, prior to holding a public hearing.

Mr. Arlen Holt, Public Information Officer, said that he would like to have something beforehand as the County's proposal prior to scheduling a public hearing. Chairman James said he thought the newspaper had provided the public with that information. The County Attorney will provide the hunting regulations being proposed to the Board of Commissioners for consideration.

Commissioner Owens stated that it sounds like he set the public hearing too early because there needs to be a draft and time to advertise for the public hearing.

Commissioner Owens and Commissioner Gaskins withdrew the motion and second for a public hearing to be schedule. The Board members supported this action.

Chairman James said they would review regulations at May 17th meeting and then will schedule the public hearing.

NC 11 Planning and Zoning

Chairman James reported that they had been met with opposition at the meeting in Bethel. He said the public is calling and meeting with him on a daily basis, stating that they do not want the County taking their land or raising their taxes. Chairman James said that he needs support from the rest of the Board of Commissioners with the citizen concerns. He encouraged the other Board members to attend these planning meetings.

Commissioner Hammond said an informed public is a better public and that there is a lot of development going on in All Pines already.

Mr. Dickerson said that the original sewer line was for the Town of Bethel but it has been changed to serve others. The City of Greenville and Greenville Utilities Commission will control this sewer if this area is not zoned. He said there will not be any individual taps for homes. Commissioner Bowen said he has talked with people who were told they could tap on to the sewer system, but now they are being told they cannot tap on. Mr. Dickerson said they will not be able to tap on and they will continue to use septic tanks. Chairman James talked about a future pumping station. Mr. Dickerson said that there will be a six inch line that will remain in place but they will not be able to tap on to the new 14 inch line. Commissioner Owens suggested they narrow the corridor for zoning. Chairman James said they are looking at narrowing the corridor and there will be five pumping stations eventually put in that area. Commissioner Shank would be very wise to have zoning in place in this area.

Airport Authority

Commissioner Ward reported on the Airport Authority and noted that they are moving forward with extension of the runway. She said they have completed the land purchases.

Commissioner Ward said she hoped that a search committee is in place for a Mental Health Area Director, and that they will do an extensive search.

Commissioner Hammond reported that he attended the District County Commissioners meeting in Williamston, and that it was very informative. They also discussed the upgrading of computers for Y2K.

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