

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 17, 1999**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session meeting on Monday, May 17, 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
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

Absent:

Jeffrey E. Savage, Vice Chairman

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.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Hammond.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Gaskins.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman James asked for any amendments to the agenda. Commissioner Owens asked to add a proclamation recognizing the Emergency Medical Services workers. Mr. Robinson stated that the Board needs to schedule a public hearing on Tranter's Creek "no wake zone" item and add the Town of Grifton's application for a Global TransPark Loan.

Commissioner Hammond said he wanted to allow Mr. Arthur Council to make public comments to the Board. Commissioner Bowen asked to let the record show Vice Chairman Savage was absent. Chairman James said Vice Chairman Savage had asked to be excused from this meeting.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as amended.

Public Hearing and Decision

Ms. Bryan stated that a public hearing needs to be held on the interim financing for the high school property Bank Financing/Land Acquisition - High School property.

Chairman James opened the public hearing.

Ms. Nancy Colville said the County is paying too much money for this land. The School Board was requested to look for some other property. Ms. Colville praised Ms. Bryan on her work and relationship with the public.

Mr. Vernon Morrison said he read the Manager's comments in the newspaper. He said that it reminded him of the BB&T building deal.

Commissioner Gaskins asked about the terms of this resolution. Ms. Bryan said the County owns this land, and this resolution is pay the County back for financing the property. She said the interest is due at maturity when the Schools will pay the interest. She said the Schools will pay the costs but they do not have authority to borrow the money. There being no further comments, Chairman James closed the public hearing.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution for financing terms as follows:

Resolution Approving Financing Terms

WHEREAS, the Unit has previously determined to undertake a project for Classroom additions and renovations, and the Finance Officer has now presented a proposal for the financing of such Project.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The Unit hereby determines to finance the Project through Branch Banking and Trust Company ("BB&T"), in accordance with the proposal dated April 12, 1999. The amount financed shall not exceed \$1,300,000.00, the annual interest rate (in the absence of default or change in tax status) shall not exceed 5.28%, and the financing term shall not exceed 9 months from closing.

2. All financing contracts and all related documents for the closing of the financing (the "Financing Documents") shall be consistent with the foregoing terms. All officers and employees of the Unit are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver any Financing Documents, and to take all such further action as they may consider necessary or desirable, to carry out the financing of the Project as contemplated by the proposal and this resolution. The Financing Documents shall include a Financing Agreement and Deed of Trust and an Escrow Agreement as BB&T may request.

3. The Finance Officer is hereby authorized and directed to hold executed copies of the Financing Documents until the conditions for the delivery of the Financing Documents have been completed to such officer's satisfaction. The Finance Officer is authorized to approve changes to any Financing Documents previously signed by Unit officers or employees, provided that such changes shall not substantially alter the intent of such documents or certificates from the intent expressed in the forms executed by such officers. The Financing Documents shall be in such final forms as the Finance Officer shall approve, with the Finance Officer's release of any Financing Document for delivery constituting conclusive evidence of such officer's final approval of the Document's final form.

4. The Unit shall not take or omit to take any action the taking or omission of which will cause its interest payments on this financing to be includable in the gross income for federal income tax purposes of the registered owners of the interest payment obligations.

5. All prior actions of Unit officers in furtherance of the purposes of this resolution are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed. All other resolutions (or parts thereof) in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed, to the extent of the conflict. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Date: _____

Chairman

Attest: _____
County Clerk

PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO THE BOARD

Ms. Nancy Colville commented on the contract for Mental Health which was on this agenda. She stated concern about the contract for \$60,000 with consultants which the services have already been performed. In addition, they had a \$5,000 contract with these same consultants. No one seems to know what services are included. An open bank account remains for \$35,000 at Mental Health. The Hatteras House payment has not been concluded. Fifteen items that were brought to the Area Board were delayed but have never been brought back. They never resolve issues and it cannot continue this way.

Mr. Keith Cooper said there are influential citizens pushing the optional local sales tax increase. He stated that sales tax is a regressive tax which takes more from the poor. He discouraged the rescue tax for the three communities. He suggested the Board consider alternative funding options. He stated that the County needs to develop a creative program to generate badly needed revenues such as State and Federal Grants and the State lottery.

Mr. Arthur Council Jr., of East Carolina Transportation Service, which provides medical transportation was involved in a vehicle accident on Memorial Drive at Greenfield Terrace, on November 30th. He said he was accused of running a light but he had the right of way and the lady ran out in front of him. The lady died. He stated he had gone to court for charges arising from the accident. He stated that the Department of Social Services has revoked his authority of driving patients until the court case has been settled. He stated he went to the Division of Motor Vehicles and took the driving test and passed. He said there was no problem with his driving. He told the Board that driving was his living and he wants to know why the County will not release him to drive. He said the Court did not take his license or send him to school. Commissioner Hammond said the case had been resolved and Mr. Council was not convicted but Social Services had canceled his contract. Commissioner Hammond said that if there was no conviction he should have his driving privileges re-instated. Chairman James asked the Manager to look into this situation with Social Services Director Ed Garrison. Ms. JoAnne Burgdorff said she has spoken with Mr. Council and the reason his driving privileges were revoked was because of the County's liability insurance. The Department of Social Services took this action while awaiting a decision from the Court. She said that she would follow up with Social Services staff.

ITEMS FOR REPORT

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Robinson reported the following items:

- a. Budget Sessions schedule, May 18, 19, 20 from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.
- b. Courthouse Tour, May 21st at 2:00 p.m.
- c. Governor's Crime Commission Grants
- d. Family Violence Grant
- e. Possible Air Quality Non Attainment Designation for Ozone - concern about potential problems with recruiting industry. The State initiated this but it has been put on hold because of the way they have proceeded. Mr. Robinson said the monitoring point is in Farmville which means the winds could be coming from Wayne County. Mr. Robinson said the priority for this Board is to protect Pitt County.
- f. Budget materials for May 18, 19, and 20 will be downstairs at second part of meeting
- g. US Hwy 17 Project update, May 18 at 2:30 p.m. in Washington Civic Center

An update on the US Hwy 17 project was provided by James Rhodes. He stated that there will be a public informational meeting Tuesday, May 18 from 2:30 -3:30 at the Washington Civic Center. It will be an open house setting. He said a group of federal and state officials have gotten together to consider the alternative routes. One alternative comes into Pitt County while another alternative goes around the Town of Washington.

Mr. Robinson said that Gary McGill was working on identifying specifics on the water issues in the County. He said that there should be a report and recommendations for the Board within the next five to six months. He stated that there were several major reasons such as, water restrictions, limitations on sewer points, limitations on money, for the future planning. Commissioner Shank asked about a timeline for the water project and wanted to know if there was anyway to move faster on this project. Mr. Robinson said he is looking into it but trying to work with the municipalities as well as the water corporations. He said he has indicated to them that the County must move forward.

Mr. Robinson said that the Winterville Rescue Squad item has been resolved so there was no need to discuss this item.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT - MELONIE BRYAN

Ms. Bryan provided the following monthly report from April, 1999:

General fund:	\$19,397,521	(6/30/98)
	\$3,091,964	(unreserved)
	\$8,930,989	(undesignated) 13.66%
Total Budget: 83.34% of Fiscal Year completed	\$132,268,047	
Summary of Revenues:	\$7,629,287	
Summary of Expenditures:	\$9,837,509	

Ms. Bryan stated that 92% of the revenues had been collected and 76.33% of expenses have been incurred.

Total County Tax Releases: 386	\$9,206.03
Total City Releases: 178	\$6,929.76
Total Tax Refunds: 19	\$ 494.98

TAX COLLECTION REPORT - FLOYD LITTLE

Mr. Little provided the following tax collections monthly report:

Pitt County Tax collection activity:	
Total April 1999 Collections:	\$821,479
Total to Date 1998/1999:	\$39,360,061
April 1999 Levy:	\$40,221,016
Total Collection activity all units including Pitt County:	
Total April 1999 Collections:	\$1,235,773
Total to Date 1998/1999:	\$56,548,045
Garnishments for April 1999:	\$106,716
Bankruptcy for April 1999:	\$2,045
Occupancy for Mar 1999:	\$77,355
Occupancy Total to Date 98/99:	\$777,641

BOARD VACANCIES - SUSAN BANKS

Ms. Banks informed the Board that she had provided a report for their perusal prior to making appointments to County boards. Commissioners discussed the future policy. Ms. Banks stated that she and Ms. Burgdorff were working on the policy for appointments and would have it prepared for the Board's next regular meeting. She stated that there are some board appointments which have been held while waiting for this policy to be completed.

CABLECASTING REPORT - ARLEN HOLT

Chairman James complimented Mr. Holt on the upgrading of the interior of the auditorium. Mr. Holt stated that he had hoped to have the system set up for the videotaping of this Board meeting but there had been technical difficulties. He thanked and praised Buildings and Grounds for their work and stated that they deserve the credit for the improved appearance of the auditorium.

Mr. Holt stated that the Manager and he had been working on consideration of what changes to make for the future cablecasting. He stated that the first regular meeting in June will be taped and the Board members will have an opportunity to review the tapes.

He also informed the Board that he and Ms. Banks had been discussing having a county information page in the newspaper where more information could be added on county items including board appointments and description of the boards.

FUTURE LAND USE PLANNING EFFORTS - JAMES RHODES

Mr. Rhodes stated that there are several legislative bills concerning growth and planning being considered by the Legislature. He said the Smart growth plan is getting a lot of attention currently. He said the City is looking at impact fees. School construction is under consideration. He said that land use and growth is a big issue statewide especially where a lot of growth and development is occurring in one particular area.

Mr. Rhodes said that there was a meeting concerning the NC Hwy. 11 Proposed Land Use and Planning Efforts, on April 1st, and full endorsements were received by the committee. Mr. Rhodes said that there are 27,000 acres included with designation for several categories ranging from industrial development on the high end and resource and development on the low end. He said they were providing reports for each governing board on the project. Mr. Rhodes also stated that the Town of Bethel is in full support of this project. He stated that they have met with Greenville City Council to discuss the plans and will meet with Greenville Utilities Commission, and Planning and Zoning of Greenville. On May 27th at North Pitt High School there will be a meeting for questions and answers for citizen input and concerns. Chairman James said he would like someone from Greenville Utilities Commission and the Pitt County Tax Office to attend. Chairman James asked Mr. Rhodes to attend. Mr. Rhodes stated he would be present and the Planning Board would also be present. Chairman James said that a hog pallor behind North Pitt High School will inhibit development. Mr. Rhodes said he has been getting conflicting information from citizens and trying to take all concerns into account. Chairman James said this area may have to be reduced if they do not start getting some support for this project. Chairman James said that the people in the Belvoir area are in support of this project. Mr. Rhodes said this is a compromise and balancing act to try to get the best plan for the County. Mr. Rhodes said the next committee meeting is scheduled for June 3rd, and they are starting the public review period. He stated that they will be going back to a number of governing boards for review and there will be several opportunities for public comments. Zoning Regulations will be kicked off at the June 3rd meeting.

Mr. Rhodes said that it will be the beginning of next year before zoning is in place. He said start up and mapping areas being considered and will be developed with the zoning ordinance. The time frame will be modified based on the NC Hwy 11 project. He said there are other planning areas that will be divided up in other parts of the County. He stated that he does not see this project being completed before twelve months. He stated the County is currently under contract with a consulting group for the NC Hwy. 11 and the Northwest Area Land Use Plan. Chairman James said he wanted this completed before the end of the year. Mr. Rhodes stated that he understood the priorities as doing the land use planning and zoning necessary for the NC Hwy. 11 project and then proceed with the Northwest Area Land Use Planning. There was no objection from the board members.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously to approve items for consent.

1. April 19, 1999 Minutes
2. Tax Releases and Refunds Greater than \$100 - March 1999

RELEASES GREATER THAN \$100.00

NAME	ACCOUNT #	PARCEL	AMOUNT
ALLSTATE ENVIROMENTDGING INC	8110232/5		151.78

REF: 30606
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

BAYVIEW FORD LIN/ME	7030276/3		131.78
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REF: 30524
NOTE:1997 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

BB & T LEASING	8012203/6		150.36
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REF: 30628
NOTE:1997 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

BB&T LEASING CORP	8030559/1		110.82
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REF: 30800
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

BLOUNT, LISA	1175346/0		166.16
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REF: 30573
NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO DOUBLE LISTED, SEE ACCOUNT NUMBER 11624050, BLOUNT, LISA.

BOSTICK, TERRI COKER	8070431/7		144.58
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REF: 30732
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

BOYETTE, CAROLYN YATES	6100761/6		157.81
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REF: 30630
NOTE:1997 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

BROOKS, CECELIA P.	79122/0		136.16
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REF: 30654
NOTE:1999 - MOBILE HOME DOUBLE CHARGED.

CHIANG, KARL SY-CHERNG	8050217/8		117.92
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REF: 30686
NOTE:1998 - PRORATE TAXES ON VEHICLE.

CLEMMONS, ELLA 1109423/0 236.94
REF: 30472
NOTE:1996 - MOBILE HOMES CHARGED IN ERROR.

COLLINS, RUSSELL THOMPSON 8110362/6 120.84
REF: 30703
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

COUNCIL, VE-LECIA SELENE 8080770/1 157.50
REF: 30704
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

DAVIS JR, JACKSON WAYNE 7090665/5 119.64
REF: 30536
NOTE:1997 - PRORATE TAXES ON VEHICLE.

DUNCAN, LANORA A. 1159064/0 243.28
REF: 30551
NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO DOUBLE LISTED, SEE ACCOUNT
NUMBER 11672480, LANORA DUNCAN, SEE PARCEL NUMBER 57407.

EASLEY, CAROLYN A 1154256/0 167.25
REF: 30638
NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO SOLD IN 1997.

EVANS, HEATHER DAVIS 8030931/9 617.78
REF: 30859
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

GENERAL MOTORS ACCE CORP 8110342/6 212.30
REF: 30611
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

HADDOCK, PHILLIP 3369201/0 120.11
REF: 30793
NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO PICKED UP AS PERSONAL AND REAL
ESTATE, SEE PARCEL NUMBER 11043.

HADDOCK, WALTER MACON 1157547/0 219.79
REF: 30509
NOTE:1995 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO DOUBLE LISTED, SEE ACCOUNT
NUMBER 11526530, SAME NAME.

HAWKS, DARLENE 1175702/0 316.77
REF: 30481

NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO TAXABLE IN BEAUFORT COUNTY.

HILL, MARTHA IRENE 8060391/1 132.59
REF: 30774
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

HUGHES, JAMES LEWIS 8060057/7 120.29
REF: 30708
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

JAMISON, CHRISTOPHER ROSS 8030174/3 173.86
REF: 30721
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

JOHNSON, MARY 1171972/0 136.45
REF: 30674
NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO LISTED ON ACCOUNT NUMBER
11284390, WIGGINS, SYLVESTER RAY.

JONES, KRISTALYN EVERETTE 8100108/3 147.37
REF: 30615
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

LONG, JEFFREY GLEN & 1149163/0 54433 353.16
REF: 30696
NOTE:1996 - RELEASE AND RECHARGE TO ACCOUNT NUMBER 1176526/0 (LONG,
BOBBIE LYNN).

LONG, JEFFREY GLEN & 1149163/0 54433 337.20
REF: 30695
NOTE:1997 - RELEASE AND RECHARGE TO ACCOUNT NUMBER 1149163/0 (LONG,
BOBBIE LYNN).

LONG, JEFFREY GLEN & 1149163/0 54433 307.70
REF: 30694
NOTE:1998 - RELEASE AND RECHARGE TO ACCOUNT NUMBER 1149163/0 (LONG,
BOBBIE LYNN).

MARTIN, JAMES E SR. & 1168955/0 57523 2201.20
REF: 30639
NOTE:1998 - RELEASE DUE TO CORRECTION OF TOTAL NUMBER OF UNITS
AND FIXTURES.

MAYO, ROBBIE 8050485/3 186.23
REF: 30618
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

MORRIS, ABBEY ASKEW 7120038/6 109.66
REF: 30805
NOTE:1997 - PRORATE TAXES ON VEHICLE.

PALMER, WANDA ROBINSON 8060640/0 121.88
REF: 30795
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

PARAMORE, PAULA VINCIGUERRA 8110250/4 122.01
REF: 30580
NOTE:1998 - PRORATE TAXES ON VEHICLE.

PEED, CECIL 1175737/0 372.77
REF: 30547
NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO DOUBLE LISTING, SEE ACCOUNT
NUMBER 117104060, VELMA COOPER.

PETTAWAY, KATONYA LYNETTE 8110307/7 103.84
REF: 30709
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

PROVO, RONALD WILLIAM 1125304/0 130.85
REF: 30581
NOTE:1997 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO SOLD 1996 TO ANTHONY KOVACEVIC

PROVO, RONALD WILLIAM 1125304/0 117.62
REF: 30582
NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO SOLD 1996 TO ANTHONY KOVACEVIC

R-TEX LLC 8100305/3 118.38
REF: 30727
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

RICH, RODDNEY 1155395/0 218.36
REF: 30757
NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO DOUBLE LISTED, SEE ACCOUNT
NUMBER 11756800, TONYA ST.CLAIR.

RICHARDS, DEBBIE 1167029/0 109.80
REF: 30677
NOTE:1997 - RELEASED DUE TO MOBILE HOME OWNED BY OLA PORTER.

RICHARDS, DEBI 1167030/0 117.97
REF: 30678
NOTE:1997 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO INCORRECT TAXPAYER BILLED,
MOBILE HOME OWNED BY RICHARD AND PAM HILL.

ROBERSON, EDITH 1175681/0 116.88
REF: 30718
NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO DOUBLE LISTED, SEE ACCOUNT
NUMBER 11095840, DONNELL WARREN.

ROBERSON, MARVIN EARL 77922/0 115.71
REF: 30640
NOTE:1998 - MOBILE HOME DOUBLE CHARGED AS REAL AND PERSONAL
PROPERTY,
SEE ACCOUNT NUMBER 1168420/0.

ROBERTS, DONA CASSAN 1175406/0 196.12
REF: 30496
NOTE:1998 - MOBILE HOME DOUBLE CHARGED ON ACCOUNT NUMBER
1170432/0 (ROBERTS, OONA CASSAN).

RODGERS, GLENWOOD 6020599/6 116.34
REF: 30595
NOTE:1995 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

TETTERTON, GAIL SMITH 1145322/0 167.31
REF: 30552
NOTE:1998 - MOBILE HOME DOUBLE CHARGED ON ACCOUNT NUMBER 1175684/0.

TRANS LEASING 1073639/0 263.22
REF: 30730
NOTE:1998 - BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY CHARGED IN ERROR.

WHITEHEAD, MARY 1155579/0 241.78
REF: 30634
NOTE:1995 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DOUBLE LISTED, SEE ACCOUNT NUMBER
11570220, BENARD, MARY WHITEHEAD.

WHITEHEAD, MARY 1155579/0 202.04
REF: 30636
NOTE:1997 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO DOUBLE LISTED, SEE ACCOUNT
NUMBER 11570220, BENARD, MARY WHITEHEAD.

WHITEHEAD, MARY 1155579/0 175.00
REF: 30637
NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO DOUBLE LISTED, SEE ACCOUNT
NUMBER 11570220, BENARD, MARY WHITEHEAD.

WHITEHEAD, MARY 1155579/0 215.59
REF: 30635
NOTE:1996 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO DOUBLE LISTED, SEE ACCOUNT
NUMBER 11570220, BENARD, MARY WHITEHURST.

WINK, DIANE MARY 7100639/5 109.08
REF: 30627
NOTE:1997 - PRORATE TAXES ON VEHICLE.

WOOLARD, SHARON GAYLE 1175107/0 132.42
REF: 30480
NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME, OWNED BY CALVIN L. MILLER. CHARGED
IN ERROR TO SHARON WOOLARD.

WORTHINGTON, PATRICK F. 1152375/0 245.95
REF: 30847
NOTE:1995 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO TAXPAYER RENTED ONLY. THE
OWNER IS PEGGY WORTHINGTON, TO BE BILLED.

WORTHINGTON, PATRICK F. 1152375/0 216.57
REF: 30845
NOTE:1997 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO TAXPAYER RENTED ONLY AND
DOES
NOT OWN. OWNER IS PEGGY WORTHINGTON, TO BE BILLED.

WORTHINGTON, PATRICK F. 1152375/0 231.83
REF: 30846
NOTE:1996 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO TAXPAYER ONLY RENTED. THE
OWNER IS PEGGY WORTHINGTON, TO BE BILLED.

WORTHINGTON, PATRICK F. 1152375/0 185.97
REF: 30844
NOTE:1998 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO TAXPAYER RENTED ONLY. THE
OWNER IS PEGGY WORTHINGTON, TO BE BILLED.

TOTAL RELEASES: 57 \$12,470.57
RELEASES GREATER THAN \$100.00
NAME ACCOUNT # PARCEL AMOUNT
ALLSTATE ENVIROMENTDGING INC 8110232/5 142.76
REF: 30606
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

BAYVIEW FORD LIN/ME 7030276/3 115.27

REF: 30524
NOTE:1997 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

BB & T LEASING 8012203/6 125.81
REF: 30628
NOTE:1997 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

EVANS, HEATHER DAVIS 8030931/9 519.68
REF: 30859
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

GAINES, DAVID LEE 8030202/7 109.63
REF: 30714
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN CITY LIMITS IN ERROR.

HUGHES, JAMES LEWIS 8060057/7 102.36
REF: 30708
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

JAMISON, CHRISTOPHER ROSS 8030174/3 143.58
REF: 30721
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

JONES, KRISTALYN EVERETTE 8100108/3 139.35
REF: 30615
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

R-TEX LLC 8100305/3 115.90
REF: 30727
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN ERROR.

TRANS LEASING 1073639/0 212.88
REF: 30730
NOTE:1998 - BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY CHARGED IN ERROR.

WARREN, JAMES FRANCIS 8120542/5 145.02
REF: 30831
NOTE:1998 - VEHICLE CHARGED IN CITY LIMITS IN ERROR.

WHITEHEAD, MARY 1155579/0 116.33
REF: 30635
NOTE:1996 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO DOUBLE LISTED, SEE ACCOUNT
NUMBER 11570220, BENARD, MARY WHITEHURST.

WHITEHEAD, MARY 1155579/0 153.26

REF: 30634

NOTE:1995 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DOUBLE LISTED, SEE ACCOUNT NUMBER 11570220, BENARD, MARY WHITEHEAD.

WHITEHEAD, MARY 1155579/0 104.61

REF: 30636

NOTE:1997 - RELEASED MOBILE HOME DUE TO DOUBLE LISTED, SEE ACCOUNT NUMBER 11570220, BENARD, MARY WHITEHEAD.

TOTAL RELEASES: 14 \$2,246.44

Total Refunds (Greater than \$100) - 1 for \$109.80
Green, Howard Peyton III - \$109.80

3. Budget Amendment - Tax Assessor

To engage the service of TMA, Inc. to complete business personal property tax audits in the amount of \$40,000.00.

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
10-414-610.00	Contracts-TMA	40,000.00	
10-300-110.98	Ad Valorem Taxes	40,000.00	

4. Budget Amendment - DSS - Smart Day Care Funds

Social Services Depart. Requests appropriation increase of \$42,117 to supplement the regular Day Care funds. The initial allocation was \$42,117.00 with services support of \$8,234.00 for a total combined allocation of \$50,351.00

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
165421 560503	Smart Start Day Care	42,117.00	
162400 433066	Smart Start Day Care	42,117.00	

5. Budget Amendment - DSS-Head Start Day Care Funds

Social Services Department received an additional allocation of Day Care funds to supplements the regular Day Care funds.

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
16-5-21-600.21	Head Start Day Care	96,799.00	
16-3-00-330-01	Head Start Day Care	96,799.00	

6. Budget Amendment - Social Services - CP & L Energy Assistance

Social Services requests an increase of \$606.00 in the appropriation for CP & L Energy Assistance to assist clients with their heating and cooling needs. The initial allocation was \$1,521.00.

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
16-5-88-600.82	CP&L Energy Assist.	606.00	
16-3-00-320.00	Social Services Admin.	606.00	

7. Budget Amendment - Health Dept.-Project ASSIST

Pitt County Health Department has received a grant award in the amount of \$2,000.00 and wants to focus the use on tobacco use prevention and control activities among teens.

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
15-3-52-360.01	DHHS Funds-Project ASSIST	2,000.00	
15-5-52-800.00	Project ASSIST	2,000.00	

8. Budget Amendment - Health Dept.-Teen Outreach Program

Pitt County Health Dept. has received a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$12,430.00 to be focused on the Teen Outreach Program (TOP) into the North Pitt/Bethel Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Project.

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
15-3-46-360.00	DHHS Funds-Health Start Plus	12,430.00	
15-5-46-230.00	Med Tech Supplies and Drugs	200.00	
15-5-46-260.00	Office Supplies	200.00	
15-5-46-312.00	Travel	250.00	
15-5-46-395.00	Conference/Training	3,050.00	
15-5-46-610.00	Contracted Services	3,600.00	
15-5-46-700.00	Incentives	5,130.00	

9. Budget Amendment - Mental Health - State Funds

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
19-5-59-610.00	Contract Services	\$118,742.00	
19-3-59-341.00	DD Diversion	118,742.00	
19-3-41-310.03	UCR-DD Adult State	84,000.00	
19-5-41-800.01	Refunds/Payback Prior Year	84,000.00	
19-5-59-610.00	Contract Services	107,029.00	
19-5-59-120.00	Salaries	8,705.00	
19-5-59-181.00	Social Security	666.00	
19-5-59-182.00	Retirement	425.00	
19-5-59-183.00	Hospitalization	615.00	
19-5-59-182.01	Supplemental Retirement	399.00	
19-5-59-184.01	Life Insurance	10.00	
19-3-59-233.00	Non-UCR Tanf Wait List	42,691.00	
19-3-59-342.00	Non-UCR State Wait List	75,158.00	

10. Budget Amendment - Adolescent Outreach Services

The adolescent Outreach Juvenile Council Budget designation of third party revenue in the amount of \$27,663.00 to Medicaid in the same amount of \$27,663.00.

11. Educational Leave - DDS - Melissa Jones and Donna Lynn Dixon

Social Services Department requests permission to grant educational leave to Ms Melissa Jones for 2 and ½ hours to attend Pitt Community College to pursue an accounting degree and Ms. Donna Lynn Dixon is requesting 2 hours of educational leave to attend East Carolina University for the first and second summer session to pursue a BS in Social Work.

12. Educational Leave - Health Dept. - Debra Walters

The Health Department requests permission to grant educational leave to Ms. Debra Walters for 2 and ½ hours per week towards a Masters of Nursing at East Carolina University.

13. Educational Leave - Mental Health - Chris Thompson

Mental Health requests permission to grant educational leave to Mr. Chris Thompson to pursue a Master of Science degree in Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Counseling.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Mental Health Contracts - Darlene Hunnicutt

Ms. Hunnicutt, Finance Officer for the Mental Health Center, explained the following about the three contracts with the Public Consulting Group, Inc.

Contract 1: Entered in October - not to exceed \$25,000 for operational diagnostic and patient accounts receivable area evaluation; determined what the problems were. - work completed, identified revenue shortfall.

Contract 2: Medicaid recovery - very labor intensive to recover revenues during this fiscal year and identified some of the problems. Contract for \$25,000 also.

Contract 3: Called Phase III was to help put into place systems to capture all revenues. Helping to develop accounts receivable process and classify write-offs. Contract for \$60,000. Developed new intact systems,

Ms. Hunnicutt stated that they are doing quite well with the assistance of the Public Consulting Group (PCG). Commissioner Owens asked where the money for contracts was coming from? Ms. Hunnicutt stated that they have collected \$415,000 as a result of the contract with PCG, which should cover costs of the contract but those funds are needed elsewhere. Commissioner Owens asked again where the funds would come for the contract. He said he concurred that spending \$85,000 to get \$415,000 back was a good decision but was still concerned with Mental Health entering into a contract without first getting approval of the Board and designating the funds. Ms. Hunnicutt noted his comments and said that positive effects of these contracts will continue to show in the future.

Commissioner Shank offered a motion for the County to move forward and pay for the contracts because the work has been done and the County is liable for the expenses. Commissioner Bowen said that the County is not responsible because the Manager and County Attorney did not sign the contract. Ms. Burgdorff said the County should pay the contract because the work had already been done. She noted that this procedure should have been done differently and these contracts should have come before the Board of Commissioners for approval prior to the work commencing. Mr. Robinson said that the Mental Health Board and staff had been under quite a bit of pressure to get the job done. Mr. Robinson said the County did not have all the expertise that was needed without contracting with PCG. He stated that there is some value to this firm's work. He stated that they have done a good job for the County, but that the contract should have come before the Board of Commissioners before the work was started.

Commissioner Hammond said he was thankful to Ms. Hunnicutt for trying to straighten out somebody else's mess but that he sees this situation as the County bailing out the Mental Health Center. He asked if this requested \$85,000 would set things straight at Mental Health? Ms. Hunnicutt stated that there is not enough money in the budget to totally recover the debt but it will reduce the size of the debt. Commissioner Hammond stated that if the agency has the power to write-off debt then they should have the power to collect debt. Commissioner Hammond stated that he did not understand how the Mental Health employees could get paid by the County yet not be County employees. Mr. Robinson tried to explain the relationship between the County and Mental Health.

Commissioner Bowen was concerned that other departments may enter into contracts without following the proper protocol if Mental Health is bailed out of this situation. He asked why these contracts were not presented to the Board in a timely manner. Ms. Hunnicutt said that she and the Legal Department had been passing the contract back and forth between the County and the contractor. She stated that County Attorney asked for changes to the contract and then it had to go back to their legal department. She said they kept the people working so they could make as much of an impact on the shortfall of funds as possible by the end of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Hammond asked how much the shortfall will be for this year? Ms. Hunnicutt said that their goal is to collect 100% of receivables and still believed the shortfall to be around \$1.2 million.

Commissioner Ward said that the County needs to pay their bills but was concerned that this could be a reoccurring type of situation. Mr. Robinson said he had signed the first contract which was within his approval limit. He stated that the Mental Health Area Board approved the other contracts. Chairman James asked if they started the work prior to having signed contracts? Ms. Hunnicutt said they did start the services because they needed to move forward as expediently as possible. Commissioner Hammond said that the Area Board should be present to say why they entered into the contract without coming before the Board of Commissioners prior to having the contractors begin work.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted six to two to move forward by approving the two contract with the Public Consulting Group, Inc. in the amounts of \$25,000 and \$60,000. Commissioner Hammond and Bowen opposed the motion.

NCDOT - DANNY TAYLOR

1999-2000 Secondary Roads Construction Program

Mr. Danny Taylor, North Carolina Department of Transportation District Engineer, reviewed last year's accomplishments of completed roads and Mr. Neal Lassiter reviewed the plans for next year. Mr. Lassiter said that they were on track on last year's schedule and still working on some of the right of ways. He stated that bond funds were accelerated but this is the last year for these funds: \$2,721,402.

Mr. Taylor presented the Secondary Road Improvement Program for 1999-2000. Commissioner Gaskins asked about the miles of unpaved road. Mr. Taylor stated that there are approximately seventy-seven (77) miles left to be paved. Commissioner Hammond asked about the progress and completion of Fire Tower Road. Mr. Lassiter said it is in the 2003 construction plans and there is a plan to upgrade the bridge at Fork Swamp on Fire Tower Road.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously to approve and accept the Secondary Road Construction Program for 1999-2000 as follows:

**PITT COUNTY
1999-2000 SECONDARY ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Map No.	Priority No.	SR No.	Local Name	Length	From	To	Proposed Improvements	Estimated Cost
*1	18R	1430	Price Road	2.70	SR 1429	Dead	Grain, Drain,	\$220,000

*2	22R	1555	Coy Forbes Rd.	2.00	NC 30	End SR1550	Base Pave Grain, Drain, Base Pave	\$280,000
***3	23R	1916A	Boss McLawhorn	1.70	SR 1915	Co. Line	Grade, Drain, Base, Pave	\$238,000
*4	24R	1748	R. Harris Rd.	1.30	SR 1725	SR 1746	Grade, Drain Base, Pave	\$182,000
*5	25R	1511	Whitehurst Station Rd.	1.50	NC 30	SR 1512	Grade, Drain Base, Pave	\$210,000
*6	26R	1252	Hedgepeth Rd.	0.90	NC 222	Dead End	Grade, Drain Base, Pave	\$126,000
**7	27R	1242	Bynum Rd.	1.10	SR1241	SR 1242	Grade, Drain Base, Pave	\$160,000
**8	28R	1554	Jerome Butler Rd.	1.20	SR 1558	SR 1550	Grade, Drain Base, Pave	\$168,000
**9	29R	1257	Cottondale Rd.	2.10	NC 43	NC 121	Grade, Drain Base, Pave	\$294,000
**10	30R	1207	N. Joyner Rd.	0.50	SR 1155	SR 1206	Grade, Drain Base, Pave	\$100,000
*11	6S	2400	Gresham Lane	0.16	SR 1567	Dead End	Grade, Drain Base, Pave	\$22,000
*12	7S	2247	Providence Rd.	0.20	NC 118	SR 2227	Grade, Drain Base, Pave	\$28,000
Subtotal for Paving				15.36	miles			\$2,028,000
Reserved for Maintenance (Spot Stabilization, Pipe, and Paved Road Improvements)								\$239,282
Countywide Surveys & Contingencies								\$454,120

*Right of Way Existing

** Right of Way Acquisition Incomplete

If right of way is unavailable on any of the above projects, alternate projects will be set up in priority order. Program is contingent upon funding and will be adjusted in priority order based on funding. Also, program subject to environmental review.

Chairman James asked about the southwest bypass. There are five corridors being studied. Mr. Collice Moore, North Carolina Board of Transportation member was present and stated that they are looking at trying to complete the decision in November. He reviewed the large projects in Pitt County. There is \$75 million on primary roads planned for in the near future.

Commissioner Bowen asked to allow Mayor Michael House, Town of Ayden, to ask about the plans for Highway 102. Mr. Lassiter said they would take a look at it but it had not been on their list of roads to consider for changes.

Mr. Moore said there is a three lane project being completed for Fire Tower Road. This summer they will start on the Corey Road to Evans Street extension which will cost \$500,000. He said the priority decision on this road was based on lives and safety. Mr. Lassiter said they hope to begin this project this summer and it will be completed by the end of the year. This project will be done in segments.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council - FY 1999-2000 Funding Recommendation - Brian Stewart, Chairman

Mr. Brian Stewart stated that the newly called Juvenile Crime Prevention Council was called Community Based Alternatives Youth Service Advisory Committee. He stated that their main purpose and function was to screen and recommend funding for programs for youth and their families. The committee met on April 26th and voted unanimously to recommend the budget for fiscal year 1999-2000 as follows:

PROPOSED PROGRAM

AMOUNT RECOMMENDED

Pitt County Juvenile Services Restitution Program	\$50,850
Psychological Services to Assist w/Treatment	\$6,250
Second Chance	\$10,454
Teen Court	\$41,523
Resolve/Parent Empowerment Program	\$49,350
Alternative Education	\$35,030
Guided Growth - GHA	\$41,531
Adolescent Outreach Services	\$79,134
Intensive Family Based Intervention (Formula Grant)	\$58,317

Commissioner Ward stated that this is a hard working committee.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council's recommendation for funding of its Fiscal Year 1999-2000 budget.

Better Health Ambulance Services - JoAnne Burgdorff and Bobby Joyner

Ms. Burgdorff stated that Better Health Ambulance Services has requested that the Board of Commissioners rescind approval of the Ambulance Franchises granted to Med 1 Medical Transport and Convalescent Transport, Inc. Mr. Bobby Joyner informed the Board that Pitt County has grown in the needs for this area from 600 to 1020 beds in nursing homes.

Mr. Lewis Swindell, Attorney for Doug Bostick owner of Better Health Ambulance Services, said that he was not present when the Board originally voted on these franchises but that the County should go back and use the correct procedures on granting these franchises. Mr. Swindell cited Section 8-115 Granting of a Franchise from the Pitt County Code of Ordinances which governs ambulance franchises. Mr. Swindell stated that in his opinion the ordinance requires a hearing before the Board and that the Board of Commissioners functions as a quasi-judicial board when sitting in this capacity. He also said that he thought that the Board must do fact finding prior to granting these franchises in addition to meeting State and County laws. He said the ordinance indicates that the new franchises must fit within the needed services and not adversely affect other franchises and must improve these services. He said that there was never a finding of fact recorded in the minutes of any of these things. He said Mr. Bostic brought this up that there was no finding of facts and that there must be more information than just that Pitt County is growing. Mr. Swindell stated that Mr. Bostic takes his responsibility as a member of the Ambulance Franchise Authority very seriously. Mr. Swindell said that part of the problem is Ambulance Advisory Council was given responsibility and duty for developing recommendations to improve quality of services in the County and these have never been developed. He stated that there is a provision in the ordinance, Section 8-117, that says the County can give notice to an ambulance service operator of termination within 60 days. He suggested that the Board of Commissioners consider serving the 60 day termination notice to the two franchises, Med 1 Medical Transport and Convalescent Transport, Inc. and they can then

resubmit their applications and the proper procedure can be done. He asked the Board to rectify this situation.

Ms. Burgdorff stated that at the time the franchises were considered, it was brought to the Board's attention that the County had significantly increased in population and had also had an increase in senior centers. Mr. Swindell said that the minutes did not reflect that. Ms. Burgdorff stated that the Board does not have verbatim minutes but it did occur and everyone remembers that it occurred. She said based on the applications submitted and based on the fact that this Board felt there truly was a need for additional services, as well as, they had the medical qualifications and training of staff to provide the services, the Board granted the franchises. Chairman James asked Ms. Burgdorff if she felt that the County was on solid ground with their actions. Ms. Burgdorff stated that in her opinion the Board of Commissioners followed the policy set forth in the ordinance. She said that Mr. Swindell was interpreting that the Board of Commissioners must do fact finding, or sit as a quasi-judicial board but these were not required by the ordinance and that was not the intention. She said that she did not see that the ordinance required a formal "fact finding". Mr. Swindell said that the County has to find answers to the questions. He reiterate that the standard was set in 1990 when the ordinance was adopted and this Board needs to follow their ordinance.

Commissioner Owens asked Mr. Swindell if he was saying the committee did not do what they were supposed to do? Mr. Swindell responded that the Board of Commissioners can not delegate this fact finding to the committee. He further stated again that there is a provision of a sixty (60) day notice to terminate services in the ordinance and that the franchises would then have to resubmit applications. He said it could be revisited and done correctly. Commissioner Bowen said that this situation was brought up earlier by Mr. Bostick and that he did his own investigation. Commissioner Bowen stated that he talked to people at the franchises, nursing homes, and others and told Mr. Swindell not to say that the Board took this action without giving it proper consideration because he did. He said that the people who do the emergency services cannot vote on new franchises. Commissioner Hammond said he did not understand what purpose terminating the newest franchises would serve. Mr. Swindell stated that his client wants these people to have to apply under the same rules that he had to apply. Commissioner Ward said that most of these statements Mr. Swindell had brought up had been addressed and it does not say that the "Board of Commissioners" will find but the ordinance reads that the "County" will find facts; and she stated that she felt that all of those items were addressed.

Chairman James said that the Board members believe that they did meet the requirements and followed the recommendation of the staff. The minutes simply stated the actions of the Board.

Mr. Robinson stated that their request was for the Board to rescind their action to grant the ambulance franchises. Mr. Swindell said the Board should rescind their action.

Mr. Swindell said the ordinance says the County Commissioners will have a public hearing and find these things and they should not be delegated down to a committee. Commissioner Hammond asked Mr. Joyner what he had said regarding the recommendation on granting the new franchises. Mr. Joyner said the committee recommended that the franchise applications had met all the guidelines in the ordinance and recommended approval.

Commissioner Hammond said the committee does not grant franchises. Commissioner Ward said that when she read the items, she felt that all these items were addressed. She stated that maybe these items could have been addressed clearer in the minutes but they were discussed thoroughly at two meetings.

Commissioner Hammond motioned to table Mr. Swindell's request until the minutes can be reviewed or amended. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Savage

arrived at this time. Commissioners in favor of tabling this item were: Owens, Hammond and Gaskins. Commissioners opposed to tabling this item were: Ward, James, Savage, Bowen, Shank and Johnson. The motion to table this item failed. No further action was taken.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES PROCLAMATION

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to make a proclamation for recognizing the Emergency Management Services people.

NO WAKE ZONES FOR PITT AND BEAUFORT COUNTY ON TRANTER'S CREEK

Mr. Robinson reporting for Mr. John Bulow, asked that the Board schedule a public hearing on June 7th at 9:00 a.m. for establishments of three no wake zones along Tranter's Creek as requested by Pitt County citizens.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Gaskins, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to schedule a public hearing on June 7th during the regular Board meeting, to hear public comments on establishing three "no wake zones" for Tranter's Creek.

Natural Gas Service to the Town of Ayden - John Chaffee

Mr. Robinson said that the initial plan was as follows:

- (1) Town of Ayden - \$150,000 up front.
- (2) PCDC provides \$225,000 with \$50,000 up front and payments of \$35,000 for next five years
- (3) Greenville Utilities provides \$375,000 of the \$750,000 total project cost with Greenville Utilities Commission securing a \$500,000 low interest loan from the GTP. This loan will spread GUC's cost over 15 years to allow growth in customers to fully amortize the debt.

Mr. Ed Booth, Ayden Town Manager and Michael House, Mayor of Ayden, were both present. Mr. Robinson said the County cannot make a loan to a municipality and the County staff is looking into the possibility of other alternatives. He stated that the Town of Ayden is seeking the Board of Commissioners endorsement of the concept only because the details have not been worked out. Discussion followed concerning possible arrangements for the loan to run through the County.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously to approve in concept the loan application from the Town of Ayden for a loan from the Global Transpark for natural gas service to the Town of Ayden.

Vice Chairman Savage asked why the Development Commission could not manage this project loan and use their funds. Mr. Chaffee stated that they already have a need for additional funding and this goes above their policies to implement this program. Ms. Bryan stated that this type of project impacts the county's financials and they need to find a tool to allow this project to be implemented.

Mr. Robinson explained that this proposed natural gas pipeline would run from the southern terminus of GUC's facilities, located on NC 11 South approximately 0.8 miles south of NC 903 in Winterville, along NC 11 South, ending near the intersection of NC 11 South and South Lee Street (Old NC11) in Ayden.

Chairman James said this project should follow the same procedure as the County has implemented on expanding sewer. Mr. Robinson said that Paul Spruill, Grifton Town Manager, was present and that they were also in the same situation. The GTP Commission meets in June

and they hope to have something resolved prior to that meeting. Mr. Robinson said that the Board needs to request that the GTP Commission modify their regulations.

Chairman James called for a vote on the motion to agree in concept to the plan. The vote was unanimous.

MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE - TOM ROBINSON

Mr. Robinson noted the following on the changes in Mental Health:

- have made substantial improvements
- collecting money
- benchmarks are set
- billing process has improved
- financial operations have stabilized
- next year's budget appears to be fiscally responsible and sound
- budget is lower than this year and realistic
- reflects reductions in Medicaid funding

Mr. Robinson said that he had talked with Dr. John Baggett about some remaining concerns and Dr. Baggett had informed him that several mental health programs in the State were in the same situation. Mr. Robinson said that he and the Chairman were going to Raleigh and to meet with key officials to request funding for the Mental Health Center.

Mr. Robinson stated that from 1992-1998 there was an 800% increase in Medicaid in forty area mental health programs, but State funding fell. He also stated that the State closed the regional offices who were supposed to be monitoring the local programs. There were no audits performed from 1980-1997 which shows lack of oversight. The State also eliminated Jordan Adams funds. Mr. Robinson said that this is a State problem because they did not provide oversight which they were legally responsible for. Now, Mr. Robinson said, the Issues are with the future. He said that currently the Mental Health Center operates separately, as an agency it needs to operate more as part of county government.

Mr. Robinson made the following recommendations:

1. Consider transferring mental health finance control to the County Finance Office. Talk with County staff and Mental Health staff and bring back specifics of how this could function. Mental Health's finance staff would report to the County Finance Officer.
2. Need more business and finance people on the Mental Health Area Board.
3. County should have some type of internal auditor, that reports directly to the County Manager and the Board of Commissioners.
4. If improvements are not happening then combine our Mental Health Center with other countys.
5. Seek the powers that Wake and Mecklenburg counties have pursued in consolidating their human services.
6. Consider forming a single county independent program with a local act.

Mr. Robinson said that the County needs to provide a structure for Mental Health to work with the County Finance Office. He also stated that he had asked Dr. Baggett to help Pitt County find a Mental Health Area Director.

He said he would provide the changes in the budget. Vice Chairman Savage said he was discouraged by the Manager's assessment. He stated that his optimism is the same as he's heard each year and has no indication that it will be different next year. Vice Chairman Savage said that if its the State's problem, why not direct it back to the State. He stated that sixty people

were laid off from their jobs. Vice Chairman Savage said the Manager's recommendation to expand the Area Board comes with no guarantees. Vice Chairman Savage said the recommendation to hire an internal auditor concerns him. He stated that two Finance Officers waved a red flag and the Manager did not act. He said that this Board has not been informed of what the impact of these changes will be on the Mental Health services. He agreed with the program staying a single county program. Commissioner Gaskins stated that an in-house auditor has been needed for a long time. Commissioner Hammond said the State is seeking counties comments on changes needed at mental health.

Commissioner Hammond said that something needs to be done before appropriating any additional funds to mental health. He said it was mismanagement at Mental Health that caused the problems in the first place and the people who were rified were sacrificial lambs. He said this program cost the County more money each year and they need to be more prudent in the future.

UPON MOTION by Vice Chairman Savage, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to instruct the staff to establish a date to hold the public hearing on hunting regulations.

Chairman James called for a recess for lunch at 12:20 p.m.

The Board reconvened in the Emergency Operations Center following lunch. All members were present. With the assistance of Al Delia and Mack Simpson from East Carolina University Research and Development Institute, each commissioner participated in a priorities setting session. The priorities established as:

General Session

1. Quality of public schools and their administration
2. Transit planning
3. Public sewer and water planning
4. Growth management/planning and zoning
5. Revenue generation

Others receiving votes:

Law enforcement

Fire and rescue

Annual financial plan

Board's role and responsibilities in the county

Straightline projection of expenditures

Ordinance review

Housing initiatives/home ownership

Periodic priority setting, program evaluation, and direction setting

Planning for services to render in 1, 3, 5 years and how to fund

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted five to one to align the priorities as follows. Commissioner Bowen was opposed to the motion.

1. Public School
 - a. safety issues
 - b. accountability
 - c. being in the top 25% of schools in North Carolina
 - d. assure State curriculum is taught in all the schools
 - e. consider functional line item budget (fund education by function)
 - f. consider gender positive attitudes in school
 - g. random searches of vehicles parked on campuses

Commissioners Gaskins and James left at this time. Vice Chairman Savage began chairing the meeting at this time.

2. Growth Management
 - a. Planning & Zoning
 - b. Sewer and Water
 - c. Fire/Rescue
3. Transit Plan
4. Revenue Generation
 - a. Infrastructure - user and impact fees
 - b. economic development and incentives/contracts to secure funds
 - c. review other counties revenue generators
 - d. possible payments in lieu of taxes from governmental and non-profit employers

Mr. Al Delia stated that he had been working with the Chamber of Commerce on a study concerning the industrial area that may be of interest to the Board.

This meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board