

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA  
MAY 20, 1999**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a workshop session on Thursday, May 20, 1999, at 8:30 a.m. in the Emergency Operations Center conference room, Pitt County Office Building, Greenville, North Carolina with the following commissioners present:

Eugene James, Chairman  
Glenn Bowen, 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  
Charles P. Gaskins, Commissioner

Also present were:

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

**Call to Order** and welcome by Chairman James.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Johnson.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Bowen.

**Approval of Agenda**

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

Chairman James stated that the John Pierce Fellowship meeting is scheduled for 12:00 p.m. so he would need to finish the meeting by 11:45 a.m. so he and other commissioners could attend.

Mr. Robinson provided the Board with a clarification on the County's relationship with Mental Health. He discussed the limited control the County has over the Mental Health program. Commissioner Bowen asked if the County could be released of the liability by turning the program over to the State. Commissioner Ward asked if other counties were having the same problems with Mental Health. Mr. Robinson stated that there have been comments stating there are other agencies with such problems in the State. Mr. Robinson said that he and the Chairman are going to meet with the Legislators to request some help on the deficit in funding at the Mental Health Center.

Mr. Robinson asked about a follow-up meeting. The Board asked the Manager to have the budget ready with amendments for the Board on June 7<sup>th</sup>, following the regular meeting. The Commissioners asked the Manager to try to keep the agenda on that meeting light.

Mr. Robinson presented a summary of the comments received from the newspaper survey about how to spend the County taxes.

### **Health Department - Dr. John Morrow**

Dr. Morrow stated that there were numerous changes to the budget discussed at the Board of Health, included cost of living raises at 3%. Dr. Morrow stated that the Health Department has lost some State funding this year and other revenues have remained flat but that they have received several large grants this year.

Dr. Morrow commented that they have received no funds from the Neurology Department of the Hospital. He stated that they are using the ECU Developmental Evaluation Center to do more outreach for rural children. Carolina Access Project continues to grow. Medicaid revenues are increasing from working with ECU School of Medicine. Child Coordination Services are growing but difficult to project because it is an experimental project. Monies for diabetic programs are coming in on a steady basis. Kate B. Reynolds foundation grant ran out this year. They are working towards automation of department records, including scanning records. Cardiovascular Grant will be coordinated with the diabetes program and will be working with churches to provide services in the community and the schools.

Commissioner Shank asked to see where the fiberoptic cable is being placed.

Commissioner Owens asked how much of an increase he was asking for in this budget. Dr. Morrow stated that there was a \$220,000 increase over the Manager's recommendation.

Dr. Morrow said they are dealing with bio-terrorism threats. He said that Environmental Health staff is a model for the State. He discussed numerous other programs which they are considering. Commissioner Hammond asked about the funding for AIDS research. Dr. Morrow reported that the funding for HIV has gone flat. Chairman James expressed the Board's appreciation for the Health Department and staff.

Ms. Florida Hardy, Human Resources Director, provided the Board with a report on the Reduction in Force which took place at the Mental Health Center. She said there were fifty-nine employees which were let go during the reduction in force, nineteen employees were rehired, twenty-five individuals did not apply for rehire, and thirteen applied but were not rehired. She also provided documentation of when the positions were advertised.

### **Planning Department - James Rhodes**

Mr. Rhodes provided the Board with a monthly activity report for the Planning Department. He gave a timeline or work program for this calendar year noting their goals and objectives. He stated that they are still completing the block addressing project. Fourteen plans for subdivisions were received and approved in April, which involves many other agencies and coordination. Mr. Rhodes appealed to the Board that there is a need for a coordinated permitting process so that other agencies can access information on a parcel as well as not repeating the process for the individual. The Planning Department is working on Land Use Planning and has contracted with the Wooten Company for some services. The CDBG and HOME program monies are included in this year because the matching funds will need to be allocated this fiscal year.

Mr. Rhodes said that he had to shift staff because of the increased workload. The E911 program is going to be done by interns. He said he is putting resources and staff in the areas where work needs to have priority. He stated that he had done a reclassification for Glenn Moore, since he has supervisory requirements and zoning experience.

Mr. Rhodes noted that the Transit Plan will be developed through MPO and looks to encompass the entire county.

Mr. Rhodes said that his main request is for an automated permitting system. The system would be an integrated and coordinated system with the GIS system which is badly needed. This would insure the citizens a one step process because the departments would be linked. Mr. Rhodes said he was requesting the initial phase to get this started which would require an estimated \$25,000 for the project.

Commissioner Johnson asked about personnel additions. Mr. Rhodes said that one new person in the middle of the year was included in his budget. He reviewed each of the increased programs.

Commissioner Bowen asked about the consultants being used for the land use planning projects. Chairman James said he will not support the NC 11 project, if he does not get more positive responses. Mr. Robinson said that sewer cannot be provided out in the County without providing zoning. There is a public meeting concerning the NC 11 planning corridor on May 27<sup>th</sup> to review this plan and a committee meeting scheduled on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Shank asked about the Transit program and using a consultant versus Research and Development Institute. Mr. Rhodes stated that everyone needs to be considered.

Commissioner Ward stated her support and said that the Planning Department should already be doing the automated services.

#### **Pitt Community College - Dr. Charlie Russell**

Mr. Raymond Reddrick, Chairman of the Pitt Community College Board of Trustees and Dr. Bob Waddell, new Vice President, were present with Dr. Charlie Russell, President of the Pitt Community College. Dr. Russell said there were two specific areas of need that Manager did not include in his recommended budget. Dr. Russell asked the Board to consider funding new paved parking for students. They need 900 paved parking spaces which cost \$1,000 per space plus \$100,000 to retrofit and improve an existing parking area. The other need was for planning for structure and infrastructure which cost is estimated at \$118,000. Dr. Russell stated that he would encourage a joint meeting between boards to discuss these additional needs.

Commissioner Bowen asked about selling some property at the Community College to raise revenue for their additional needs. Dr. Russell said the Board of Trustees thinks that the property will increase in value and are hesitant to sell the property at this time. Chairman James said that the particular piece of land should bring \$450,000. Chairman James said he would like the College to look into selling this property. Dr. Russell said he would move forward with getting an appraisal. Mr. Robinson said that a \$190,000 increase was included in the Community College budget.

Commissioner Ward would like information on how many people come there for two years and transfer to other colleges. Commissioner Hammond stated his support of the parking for the students.

Chairman James expressed his appreciation for the job that they are doing at the Community College.

Mr. Reddrick expressed that the Community College should take the lead in this County in education but that they need the County's support to meet the needs for the County.

#### **Outside Agencies -**

### **Ayden Arts and Recreation Center - Andy McLawhorn**

Mr. McLawhorn stated that they had budget cuts by other agencies as well as the County. He said their budget had been cut from \$185,000 to \$125,000. Mr. McLawhorn said he was sent by the Recreation Committee because they wanted the Board to reconsider. The poor children are being charged to play sports and they cannot afford the expense. Commissioner Shank spoke in support of this program and her concerns about the decrease. She stated that she feels this is a way to improve a child's life.

### **Grifton Civic Center - Frances Mewborn**

Ms. Frances Mewborn, representing the Grifton Civic Center, said they requested \$10,000 but the Manager only budgeted \$3,000. She said that all workers are volunteers. The Civic Center houses Council on Aging, Adult Basic Education and the Community College works with them on their educational programs. She stated that they had half a roof done last year and hope to do the other half of the roof this year. They provide arts and crafts, summer recreation program, and museum, etc. She said that they were trying to get art displays on loan and also noted that the entire building was in use.

### **Grifton Library - Frances Mewborn**

Ms. Mewborn noted that the Grifton Library is staffed totally by volunteers. She said they had to shift monies to get collections for a computer and they also need money to purchase books. She noted that they requested 7,000 and but the Manager budgeted 3,000. Commissioner Bowen asked about bookmobile going to Grifton. Chairman James said the bookmobile can be sent to Grifton. Paul Spruill, Grifton Town Manager, wanted to offer his support for the recreation funding request and express his appreciation to the Board of Commissioners. He noted that they had request for a one time capital project. He said that they asked for matching funds to help stretch the project out.

### **Farmville Community Arts Council - Barbara Owens**

Mrs. Barbara Owens, provided statistics on how the funds were used last year and cited their 300 volunteers. She said the arts are not just for children, it serves seniors also. Farmville provides \$10,000 but they also receive funds from the State. Commissioner Shank commended Ms. Owens on their outstanding program.

### **Winterville-Ange Museum - LaRue Evans**

Ms. Evans stated that the Winterville-Ange Museum has a good track record on receiving grants. She stated that the house has a restrictive covenant, and they are trying to refurbish the house. She reviewed some of the highlights in the Town of Winterville that would bring people in to the museum. She stated that the house is eligible for the national registry. Ms. LaRue asked the Board to consider funding at least \$5,000 for the museum.

### **Greenville Museum of Arts - Barbour Strickland**

Mr. Strickland said that since 1993, the Greenville Museum of Arts has received \$7,000 and is requesting the same amount this year. He stated that \$7,000 represents 4% of their budget and that money is very important to them because they use it for matching grants.

Ms. Theresa Morris, Chairman of the Greenville Museum of Arts Board, shared the State Board of Tourism booklet which highlighted the Greenville Museum of Arts. She stated that

there are many children that come through the Museum and it is a great asset to the Community. She noted that the City of Greenville also provides in-kind services.

**Pitt County Arts Council - Carol Benel, Director**

Mr. Bruce Wackelin, Chairman of the Pitt County Arts Council, said they have restructured their agency and then shared their mission statement. He stated that providing arts in the schools and work with the teachers and PTA's to enhance their curriculum was part of their mission. He said that they are asking for about \$1 per student in the school system. He stated that they have done a needs based analysis on the arts programs that they are providing and that they need to use the requested \$24,000 for matching grants. They also have a NDA grant.

**Miscellaneous**

Mr. Bobby Joyner informed the Board that the ID badges are ready to be made at their convenience.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC  
Clerk to the Board