

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
JULY 12, 1999**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session meeting on Monday, July 12, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, Greenville, North Carolina with the following commissioners present:

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

Also present were:

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

Call to Order and welcome by Chairman James.

Prayer by Commissioner Johnson.
Pledge led by Commissioner Owens.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Robinson stated the he needs to report on recent grant awards from the Governor's Crime Commission. There were four on the agenda but two more needed to be added for approval on the consent agenda. Vice Chairman Savage asked to be excused before 9:30 a.m. and asked to move the board appointments up on the agenda to the first part of the meeting so he could have input prior to leaving.

UPON MOTION by Vice Chairman Savage, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to move the board appointments to the beginning of the agenda.

Chairman James noted that item #4 on items for consent, reappointment of Peter Hickey to the Convention and Visitors Authority, needed to be removed.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Shanks, seconded by Commissioners Gaskins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO BOARD

Robin Rudd - Teacher - Thanked the Board for increase in teachers supplements. She spoke about her trip to China and the Chinese placing enormous value on quality of education. She stated that their test results far outweigh the results in the United States. She said they are a third world country but are willing to pay for education. She spoke of the need to invest money

and time in the local schools. She asked the Board that if there is any extra money to put it in the Schools budget.

Ken Manning - hunter, farmer and landowner - concerned about hunting ordinance. He stated there have been a lot of wrecks involved with deer in this county. He said he found 18 deer eating his peanuts and they are detrimental to the crops. He said he did not want the regulations to be too strict because he wants the hunters to hunt the deer. He said he hoped the Board would support Bill Young and the committees' recommendation.

Dr. T.C. Soli - lives near Stokes and concerned with hunting ordinance. He said he was concerned with the lack of responsiveness by the Committee. He said the only issue of definitions was added to the ordinance and other things were removed. He said that the definition of the road right of way needed to be added because it is on the State books but it is ignored. Impairing substances needs to have the units being measured added to the .08 level. He said it does not preclude drinking. He asked that on Section 4.3 of the ordinance, they add back "or private land." On section 4.5 add back to the ordinance, "or run on private land" and add back on section 5.1 b, the item on confiscation of firearms.

Nancy Colville - 33 year resident of Greenville - She said that today is a special day and she wants to thank the Board for televising these meetings. She had her granddaughters with her and said she wanted them to see that government does work when the people get involved. She stated her support of the County Manager's decision to take over finances at Mental Health. She stated it was her opinion that Ms. Steele and Ms. Hunnicutt's qualifications were overstated. She said the Manager and Board of Commissioners had taken a blood bath on this item. She stated that the County Commissioners need to consider how they are going to pay for the \$48 million to the Schools, debt payments, operations expenses for the new schools before giving away the additional money coming to the County. She said good teachers deserve raises but bad teachers are getting raises also and the School Board is not addressing that situation.

Josey Boyette - representing the Pitt County Association of Educators - wanted to thank the Board for earmarking Pitt County teachers for an increase in supplement. She stated her appreciation for the Board recognizing them in this way. She informed the Board that she will continue to go to the School Board meetings and will look for creditability with the School Board. She said she hopes the Board will consider providing additional funding for the schools whenever there is an opportunity. She stated that the Saturday schools, may not be funded since teacher supplements were funded. The Gifted and Talented students need funding also.

Dick Mills - farmer - had to replant 15 acres of beans because of deer. He said he was a hunter but did not have a problem with hunting. He asked that the Board not make it any more difficult for hunters because the deer will eat up the crops. He stated that they need to keep the deer population down.

Nimette Soli - from Stokes area - stated that she wanted to back what her husband T. C. Soli said. She said she understands farmers concerns with the deer population and that if they allowed hunting of doe it would cut down on the population significantly. She said that deer was reintroduced 30 years ago into Pitt County. She stated her concern is with the safety issues. She stated that her husband was in the garden behind their house and two high powered bullets zinged past him. She said that they own an eighty acre farm and have been harassed by hunters in recent years. She said they surround their property. The land is posted but they ignore it and run their dogs across their land. She stated that these are deer hunters using dogs. She also stated that she is not opposed to hunting.

Dr. Raymond Vickers - stated he was concerned with safety. He said he had seen a number of gun injuries as a doctor and that the Board needs to recognize that this county is moving into an urban era rather than being a rural county. He encouraged the Board to consider this change.

Rick Hammell - Fountain - concerned with the running of dogs. He said there is one person asking for word run in the ordinance and that the Board should recognize the good safety record of hunters in Pitt County.

Chairman James called for any one else who wished to speak. No one came forward. Chairman James closed the public addresses to the Board.

Presentation of Resolutions

Vice Chairman presented the following resolution to Patient Gardner for his role in the World Special Olympics Games:

OFFICE OF THE PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

**RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION
HONORING**

Mr. Patient Gardner

WHEREAS, Mr. Patient Gardner is a resident of Pitt County and is a sophomore at D.H. Conley High School; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Gardner was selected to represent Greenville and Pitt County in the 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games that were hosted by the State of North Carolina; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Gardner took his place with Team USA along with athletes from every other state and the District of Columbia; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Gardner joined 7,000 athletes from 150 countries to compete and to celebrate their abilities in 19 different sports; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Gardner distinguished himself by winning a gold medal in the 100 meter roller skating slalom, a silver medal in the 300 meter roller skating slalom, and a silver medal in the meter 4x100 meter roller skating relay;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners does hereby commend Mr. Patient Gardner for being an outstanding athlete and representative for Team USA, North Carolina, Pitt County, Greenville-Pitt County Special Olympics, his family, his coach, and his supporters. Winning one gold and two silver medals in world competition reflects determination, commitment, and dedication to hard work in mastering the sport of roller skating. His courage, determination, and love for life are a true model for others to follow.

ADOPTED this day, the twelfth day of July, nineteen hundred ninety-nine.

Eugene James, Chairman

ATTEST:

Susan J. Banks, Clerk

Mr. Gardner thanked the Board for the resolution and his coach also spoke on Mr. Gardner's achievements.

Chairman James presented the resolution to Lauren Scott as follows:

OFFICE OF THE PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION

HONORING

Miss Lauren Scott

THAT WHEREAS, Miss Lauren Scott is a resident of Pitt County and was the Salutatorian and Class President for North Pitt High School's Class of 1999; and,

WHEREAS, Miss Scott was the first North Pitt student to be selected as a Roy H. Park Scholar and also first North Pitt student to be named a National Coca-Cola Scholar; and,

WHEREAS, Miss Scott was chosen to represent Pitt County at the North Carolina competition for a national scholarship program known as America's Junior Miss; and,

WHEREAS, Miss Scott was the first Pitt County Junior Miss selected to represent the State of North Carolina as North Carolina's Junior Miss and thus compete against forty-nine other state representatives at the National Competition for America's Junior Miss in Mobile, Alabama; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners does hereby commend Miss Lauren Scott for being an outstanding representative of North Carolina, Pitt County, Pitt County Schools, and her peers and also commends her for being the first North Carolina Junior Miss to be named First Runner-up at the National Competition for America's Junior Miss. Her talent as a dancer, her educational accomplishments, her community service, and her positive personality speak well of Miss Scott and serve as a role-model for other youths aspiring to such achievements.

ADOPTED this day, the twelfth day of July, nineteen hundred ninety-nine.

Eugene James, Chairman

ATTEST:

Susan J. Banks, Clerk

Ms. Scott stated that the Pitt County School Systems and her parents had nurtured her and she wanted to give recognition to her community for supporting her through her achievements.

Commissioner Bowen asked Dr. Vickers what type of doctor he was and Dr. Vickers responded that he specializes in Geriatric medicine for older citizens. He said he was in practice for fifty years and worked many times in the emergency room. He said the point he was trying to make was that things in this County are changing and the Board needs to take that into consideration. Chairman James said the Hunting Committee had talked to a doctor and the hunting accidents in Pitt County had come from falling from tree stands.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board - Susan Banks

Commissioner Shank motioned, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, to reappoint Charles Waller for a fourth three year term. Commissioner Shank stated that this action was warranted because Mr. Waller was overseeing the construction and renovation of the ABC Offices and was also running for a national office. Commissioner Bowen made a substitute motion, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, to not take any action and allow Mr. Waller to continue serving until replaced at a later date.

Chairman James called for a vote on the substitute motion. Commissioners in favor of that motion were: Bowen, James, Savage and Gaskins. Commissioners opposed were: Hammond, Owens, Ward, Shank and Johnson.

Chairman James called for a vote on the original motion to reappoint Charles Waller for a fourth consecutive term, which would expire June 30, 2002. Commissioners in favor of the motion were: Owens, Shank, Ward, Johnson and Hammond. Commissioners opposed were: Bowen, James, Savage and Gaskins. Charles Waller was reappointed to serve a fourth term on the Pitt County ABC Board.

Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority - Susan Banks

Ms. Banks informed the Board that Linwood Wright had originally filled an unexpired term and was not eligible for appointment to a full term on the Airport Authority.

Vice Chairman Savage asked to be excused from the meeting in order to attend a meeting at the Mid-East Commission. He offered comments on the hunting ordinance, stating that he was in favor of zero tolerance for alcohol consumption while hunting. He also expressed concerns about the way the North Carolina Department of Transportation was re-aligning residential driveways during their construction on Highway 11.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Savage, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Linwood Wright to a full three year term on the Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority, with a term which expires June 30, 2002.

Ms. Banks reported that David Stowe, from Farmville, has served two full terms and was not eligible for reappointment.

Commissioner Ward nominated Albert Monk, CEO of Dimon Corporation. Commissioner Gaskins nominated Frank Mueller, CEO of NACCO. Commissioners spoke on behalf of both individuals.

Chairman James called for a vote on Frank Mueller. Commissioners Gaskins, James and Bowen voted for Frank Mueller. The Chairman called for a vote on Albert Monk. Commissioners Owens, Ward, Johnson, Shank and Hammond voted for Albert Monk. Mr. Monk was appointed to a three year term, which will expire June 30, 2002 on the Airport Authority.

Greenville Utilities Commission Board of Directors - Nomination - Susan Banks

Ms. Banks informed the Board that Valerie Dixon had served two full terms on the Greenville Utilities Commission Board of Directors and was not eligible for reappointment.

Commissioner Shank nominated Christopher Jenkins, Certified Public Accountant, and former employee of Proctor and Gamble, to serve on the Greenville Utilities Commission Board.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted to close the nominations and accept the nomination of Christopher Jenkins to the Greenville Utilities Commission Board of Directors, by acclamation, to be forwarded to the Greenville City Council for consideration.

Pitt County Jury Commission - Susan Banks

Ms. Banks informed the Board that Elvis Jones had served the full number of years on the Jury Commission and was not eligible for reappointment.

Commissioner Owens nominated E. W. Harvey, Jr. to serve on the Jury Commission.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted to close the nominations and accept by acclamation the appointment of E. W. Harvey, Jr. to the Pitt County Jury Commission, with a term which expires June 30, 2001.

Pitt Community College Board of Trustees - Susan Banks

Ms. Banks reported that Thomas Craft had served two full terms on the Pitt Community College Board of Trustees and was not eligible for reappointment.

Commissioner Bowen nominated Barbara Wilson for the Pitt Community College Board of Trustees vacancy.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to accept the nomination and appoint Barbara Wilson by acclamation to the Pitt Community College Board of Trustees.

ITEMS FOR REPORT

Manager's Report

Mr. Robinson informed the Board that the County had two winners for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Ralph Ketner Award which were from the Pitt County Detention Center. Ms. Donna Preston and Johnny Harrison won the award for their sewing program. They purchased a sewing machine and the inmates are repairing any tears to the sheets or clothes as necessary. Captain Lawrence Whaley spoke to the Board about the award and the excellent staff they have at the Detention Center. He said they are quite honored to have won this award and that they do an excellent job for Pitt County. He said that Johnny Harrison has gone above and beyond the call of duty by installing the sewing factory. Ms. Preston stated that they always try to find ways to save money for the County.

Mr. Harrison said that after many years with Eveready Battery Company he found that he was a "displaced" employee and was unemployed. He stated that he thanked God for his employment with Pitt County. He thanked the Board for the additional funding the Detention Center received for the purchase of additional underwear for the inmates and stated that it has helped with the morale of the employees also. He stated that they try to be good stewards and

thanked the Board for providing for their needs. He invited all the commissioners to visit the sewing factory at the Detention Center.

Mr. Robinson stated that he had a report on the Mental Health Center and had asked Mr. Bulow to report to the Board on the impact on the citizens from the changes in services. He said the County had assumed the financial responsibilities for the Mental Health Center. Mr. Robinson stated that he had met with David White, Chairman of the Mental Health Area Board, who replaced Ms. Yolanda Burwell, who has resigned. Dr. Charles Mitchell, Area Board member, has assumed the position of Acting Director, which will be shared with Mr. John Bulow. Mr. Robinson said he met with all the area managers in the Mental Health program and has been pleased with the support. Mr. Robinson then recognized Mr. Bulow to give a report on the impact of the cutback in services.

Mr. Bulow stated that Vice Chairman Savage had requested this report and he would see that Mr. Savage received a copy of the report.

Mr. Bulow reported that there had been a lot of reorganization of staff at the Mental Health Center. There were two major programs affected and that the Satellite programs in Ayden, Bethel, and Farmville had been closed. In the Satellite clinics there were three psychiatrists and one children's services psychiatrist. Prior to closure of clinics the staff did a full review of cases. They closed one hundred fifty-six cases. One hundred sixty-seven cases were referred back to a Mental Health Therapist and appointments have been scheduled for these clients. Ninety-four cases have not been resolved but there has not been significant contact with these cases within the last six months. He added that only eight cases had a real problem with transportation to the main center. He said that if they need medication support a mental health worker will go to their home. He stated that seventy-eight percent of the clients have been addressed. Many of these clients saw a therapist every two weeks and will now see them every four or five weeks based on priorities. The Respite program was the other program which was impacted. This program was largely County funded. The Respite program had thirty-nine clients, all but eight were from Pitt County. He said the Respite program only received about one-third of the support needed from the State. He stated that in many cases this program was providing day care for the clients.

Mr. Bulow stated that only thirty percent of the clients have the ability to pay for Respite care. The other clients expenses for Respite care are being paid by the County and the State. He stated that the staff has been exploring other alternatives for Respite care for these clients and their families. Mr. Bulow said that there is not enough state and federal funds to support this program. They have referred clients to Wilson-Greene Respite program but understand that they may close their facility also. The clients with financial support are referred to a agency in Pinetops. Mr. Bulow said it was a business decision to close the Respite program.

Commissioner Hammond asked how the State could mandate the services and not provide the funds. Mr. Bulow stated that this program is not State mandated Chairman James requested a written report on the people who were laid off, hired back or hired by other agencies. He said that the Board wants to look out for the employees.

Mr. Robinson reminded the Board that Ms. Martha Knisley will make a report following lunch on Mental Health.

Establishment of Grimesland Extraterritorial Jurisdiction - James Rhodes

Mr. James Rhodes stated that the Town of Grimesland had established an extraterritorial jurisdiction to be effective July 1, 1999. He said this normally incorporates the area surrounding the corporate town limits and there it is generally one mile around the corporate limits. He said that there were a number of issues which need to be considered including that the County staff has been administering the Town of Grimesland building inspections and regulations. He said

there needs to be some coordination with the Town on how they wish to continue handling the process for current development projects which have previously been sent to the County. Mr. Robinson said that the County has been handling their planning efforts and they have asked for the continued assistance from the County with their planning efforts. Mr. Rhodes noted that the Clerk has advertised for members to be placed on the Grimesland Planning Board and Grimesland Board of Adjustment.

Report on PCMH Funds to Pitt County- Melonie Bryan

Ms. Melonie Bryan stated that she had reconfirmed with Wachovia the data on these funds. She said that there were securities in escrow to pay off the old Pitt County Bonds and with the improved stock market and the selling of the funds in escrow these funds will generate additional funds for Pitt County. This action will take place on Wednesday July 21, 1999.

Governors Grant Awards Report - Tom Robinson

Mr. Robinson reported that Pitt County had been awarded six grants from the Governor's Crime Commission as follows:

- (1) Domestic Violence Prevention: \$35,284.69 Grant, \$10,761.56 Cash Match
- (2) Real Crisis Victim Services: \$69,627.50 Grant, \$22,542.50 Cash Match
- (3) Mobile Data Terminals: \$56,403.00 Grant, \$18,801.00 Cash Match
- (4) Victim's Advocate Program: \$47,493.75 Grant, \$15,831.25 In-kind Match
- (5) Violent Crimes Victim Assistant: \$30,306.40 Grant, \$7,576 In-kind Match
- (6) Domestic Violence Victim Assistant: \$27,708.75 Grants, \$9,236 Cash Match

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to approve each of the six Governor's Crime Commission Grants as presented.

Legislative Update - JoAnne Burgdorff

Ms. Joanne Burgdorff said that all the requested legislation from Pitt County was approved except the local option sales tax item. The County was given \$300,000 from the State for reimbursement of costs associated with the landfill contamination from years ago. The County also received the authority to invest funds in a higher yield earnings investment fund, which was a local act. She stated that she is still waiting for word on the pistol permit reduction from \$20 to \$5 request which was supposed to come up for the final vote on Tuesday, July 13. She said she felt the County's legislative package was very successful.

Commissioner Ward said she would like to commend Ms. Burgdorff on her communications with the Legislators and on how hard she had worked on this matter. Mr. Robinson stated that he and Ms. Bryan had been to Raleigh to meet with the Dr. John Baggett Mental Health officials to request additional funding. He said that Mental Health had received a letter from the State notifying them that they had been given \$300,000 to help further reduce the deficit at Mental Health. Commissioner Hammond commended the Pitt County Legislative Delegation for being responsive to the County's needs. Commissioner Bowen said he talked to Senator Bob Martin about the pistol permit fee legislation and he said that the pistol permit fee had gotten lost in the Senate. Ms. Burgdorff reported that she had sent a letter signed by the Chairman thanking the Pitt County Legislators for their help with local legislation during this session.

Chairman James called for a short break.

Tax Collections and Annual Settlement - Jeff Niebauer, Assistant Tax Collector

Mr. Jeff Niebauer presented the Monthly Tax Collections report and the Annual Settlement as follows:

Tax collection activity in Pitt County:

Total to Date 1998/1999: \$40,596,314

Pitt County Levy:
June 1999 Levy: \$40,590,475

Total Collection activity all units including Pitt County:
Total June 1999 Collections: \$920,247
Total to Date 1998/1999: \$58,210,156

Garnishments for June 1999: \$110,926
Bankruptcy for June 1999: \$1,090
Occupancy for May 1999: \$85,938
Occupancy Total to Date 98/99: \$942,201

ANNUAL TAX SETTLEMENT	98/99
Total Amount Levied	\$40,590,474.63
Total Discount	\$286,939.07
Total Tax Collected/Released	\$38,421,994.48
Total Outstanding A/R	\$1,881,541.08

Interest and Cost Collected: \$156,814.76

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to accept the 1998/1999 Tax Settlement Report.

Northwest Planning Area - James Rhodes

Mr. Rhodes stated that the Northwest Planning Area was the second area involved with the planning and zoning areas. He said that they were drafting a plan and would have their first meeting next week on July 22. Mr. Rhodes reviewed the boundaries for the Northwest Planning area which extends from the Belvoir community to Edgecombe County property line with the Tar River as a border and it comes into the City of Greenville's planning jurisdiction. He stated that this area is larger than the area for NC 11 planning and is approximately 38,000 acres in size. He also noted that there are no incorporated areas within this planning area.

Mr. Rhodes said there is a public interest meeting planned so the public can give input early in the process. He also stated that the Wooten Company was assisting the staff with this project. He said they have received several comments concerning manufactured home parks, overall general growth, overcrowding in the schools in this area. He said that they are encouraging landowners to be involved in the process and will be sending out notices to each landowner. The public interest meeting will be held August 5th from 4:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. in the Belvoir School where a formal presentation on the intentions of the plan will be presented. Mr. Rhodes stated that the formulation of a steering committee has been discussed which will include landowners, representative from Greenville Utilities Commission and others. Mr. Rhodes presented a project schedule and stated that based on their original scheduled they were running a couple of months late. He said they are doing some of the mapping and have completed the existing land use survey. Now they are reviewing aspects of the plan such as the watersupply/watershed area in this area and the specific restrictions that may apply. He said that he hoped to formulate the committee in August or September and develop the land use plan within the next six to eight months and be able to move forward with the zoning ordinance. He

said this area should move quicker but will still be a year long process. Chairman James said the committee should be comprised of property owners that control property, a county commissioner and representative from Greenville Utilities Commission and one Planning Board member. He said he wants more input early in the process from the people who live in this area. He said the people in this area are in favor of organized growth.

Commissioner Shank asked about the expectations of this Steering Committee. Mr. Rhodes said they would be expected to work with the consultants and the Planning Staff to bring a recommendations to the Planning Board for review and endorsement which in turn will be brought to the Board of Commissioners.

Water & Sewer Planning - Phil Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson said need that there is a need for the County to take a lead role in providing water and sewer for County residents but the County has had no ownership in water and sewer and also has not had statutory authority. Mr. Dickerson said the County’s role is to mediate and facilitate the process. He provided the Board with the list of priorities as determined by the Water and Sewer Planning Committee as follows:

Prepared: July 15, 1999

<u>Priority Points</u>	<u>Issues</u>
27	Water source concerns - quantity, quality, treatment costs
25	Annexation of water corporation service areas
18	Ability to fund needed improvements
12	Wastewater treatment capacity
12	Urban development - fire flow
10	Means of providing water/sewer service to unserved areas
8	Structured method for County participation
7	Potential for interlocal agreements'
5	Land use planning including zonings as it relates to water/sewer service
4	Other sources of water
3	Existing sewer collection system problems (I/I)
3	Best service to customer at lowest price
0	Equal levels of water/sewer service within municipalities
0	Cost of providing sewer service
0	Services and planned development resulting from water/sewer service
0	Financial incentives for inter-system connection/usage (water)

Mr. Dickerson said that they had reviewed sources of water and that there is limited groundwater and limited in the amount that can be taken from the Tar River. Mr. Dickerson said that they have been and still are meeting monthly and discussing issues thoroughly. The committee members are trying to work through the list of priorities.

Bell Arthur Rescue District Referendum - JoAnne Burgdorff

Ms. Burgdorff said she received letter from the Department of Justice concerning the Bell Arthur Rescue tax district referendum. She stated that Pitt County since 1973 has been under special legislation requiring special clearance on any changes affecting voting prior to any election. We had used a local act passed by the Legislature in 1991 for our authority to hold the referendum, but State Legislation dealing with a similar matter had not been pre-cleared either. She said that she was working with the State Attorney General and the Department of Justice trying to get these matters resolved. She stated that she has sent a letter to the Justice Department and asked that the April election be pre-cleared. She said that this does not

invalidate the election but that no one was aware of this problem at the Board of Elections or the State Attorney General's office. Ms. Burgdorff said that the law allows sixty days to pre-clear any request. She said that it could have been potentially dangerous but is alright for now.

ITEMS ON CONSENT

Mr. Robinson read the list of items on the consent agenda.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent items with one correction to June 7, 1999 minutes.

1. Minutes for the following dates:
 - May 19, 1999
 - May 20, 1999
 - June 7, 1999
 - June 8, 1999
 - June 9, 1999
 - June 21, 1999
 - June 21, 1999, Public Hearing on Hunting Ordinance
2. The finance officer has approved the following release and refund information for June 1999: total county releases: 184 in the amount of \$5,689.49, total city releases: 126 in the amount of \$3,974.91 and total tax refunds: 9 in the amount of \$200.48 for June 14-30, 1999.
3. Adoption of corporation resolution identifying County officers authorized to transact business on behalf of the County under the existing bond orders from 1991, 1992, 1997 and 1999.

**CERTIFIED COPY OF CORPORATION RESOLUTION
OF
Pitt County Government**

I, the undersigned hereby certify that I am the Clerk of the above-named Corporation which Corporation is duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina: that the following is a true copy of the Resolution duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said Corporation effective of the 12th day of July , 1999.

Resolved that the officers listed below are Authorized Representatives of the Company with the authority to execute all appropriate documents for the Stock Transfer account established with First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Eugene James	Chair of the Board	
Thomas B. Robinson	County Manager	
Melonie T. Bryan	Director of Financial Services	

I further certify that this Resolution has neither been rescinded nor modified.

Clerk to the Board

Sworn to and subscribed by me this
12th day of July, 1999.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

4. Peter Hickey was not reappointed to the Pitt-Greenville Convention and Visitors Authority as he submitted a resignation. We are awaiting new nominees for the future. (This item was pulled off the consent agenda at the beginning of the meeting.)
5. John Carroll and Sam Carson were unanimously reappointed to the Region Q Workforce Development Board and Robert Waddell was appointed to this board replacing Dr. Edgar Boyd. Robert Waddell is a Pitt Community College appointee.
6. Pitt County was awarded four Governor's Crime Commission Grant. All matching money is in-kind or budgeted. (These were approved earlier on the agenda.)

Grant No.: 074-1-99-2VA-W-075

Domestic Violence Prevention: \$35,284.69 Grant, \$10,761.56 Cash Match

Grant No.: 074-1-99-018-D-138

Real Crisis Victim Services: \$69,627.50 Grant, \$22,542.50 Cash Match

Grant No.: 074-1-99-15B-D-134

Mobile Date Terminals: \$56,403.00 Grant, \$18,801.00 Cash Match

Grant No.: 074-1-99-2VA-W-157

Victim's Advocate Program; \$47,493.75 Grant, \$15,831.25 In-kind Match

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Hunting Ordinance - JoAnne Burgdorff and Bill Young

Ms. Burgdorff provided the Board with a New Proposed Hunting Ordinance in their package proposed by Hunting Committee. Chairman James said the Committee was very knowledgeable on this subject and he would support their recommendation.

Mr. Bill Young thanked the County staff for their help. He stated that he had worked diligently with JoAnne Burgdorff on the proper writing of this ordinance. He said that following the public hearing he took the comments back to the committee for review and they attempted to address everyone's concerns. He said that the Committee feels that the document proposed is appropriate for Pitt County. He reviewed the committee composition for the benefit of the public. Mr. Young then reviewed each section as noted below:

4.1 Impairment language was taken right out of DWI Law but agrees that it should be zero impairment. If an individual refuses to take a chemical analysis test, they would lose their hunting license on the spot for 30 days. Sheriff's Deputy or Wildlife Officer cannot confiscate the firearm. It is up to the Judge, in court, to confiscate firearm. Already have right to seize firearms. Ninety percent of the time the law enforcement officer does seize the firearm.

4.2 stayed the same, exempt landowner.

4.3 Road or right of way is 60 foot from center line and law says you cannot run, shoot across, etc. That is already on the books for local law. This rewritten law is better.

4.4 Took out private and left in posted because of definition of trespassing. Hunters are legally required to have permission for hunting on posted land.

4.5 Took out “to run” from the ordinance, because considerable comments were made about it at the public hearing. Difficult to define “to run”. If you leave this in, you will eliminate using dogs for hunting in Pitt County. If dogs show up miles away, having gotten away from their owners, then someone could get charged for a dog being on their land and the dog owner did not have control of where the dog ran. He said if they run and release is in the ordinance then it would be unenforceable.

Mr. Young said that he personally believed that there are three hotspots in Pitt County that are abused by a select group of hunters. There are laws already on the books that would address this situation. He urged the Board to write a resolution so the Sheriff’s Department could give these people some relief from the hunters that are harassing these landowners. If this proposed ordinance is passed, it will go into effect when it is approved by Legislature and it will then be sent to the Wildlife Commission to be included in the Wildlife Regulations booklet.

Mr. Young said that since 1965 gun related accidents have decreased dramatically. He said there have been three fatalities in the State of North Carolina in the last year. He said that this is a good ordinance and he thanked the Board. Chairman James thanked the committee for the work that they have done on this ordinance.

Commissioner Hammond said he was concerned with retrieving dogs because they can be on posted land. Mr. Young said that they tried to write the ordinance around the road right-of-way so people can attempt to retrieve their dogs. Commissioner Owens asked if you can release dogs on the highways. Mr. Young said he was not sure of the State law governing that activity. He also asked how the fee was determined and how they arrived at the 300 feet from a residence requirement. Commissioner Ward suggested that when retrieving your dogs, such as collecting your owned, strayed, dogs, there needs to be a provision for collecting your dogs on someone else’s property. She also suggested that they add the definition of right-of-way which is sixty (60) feet from the middle of the road.

Commissioner Bowen said that he wanted to add a statement as follows: “unlawful to release hunting dogs or encourage dogs to hunt on posted land.” Chairman James said this statement cannot be enforced. Commissioner Owens praised the Committee for their work on this project.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, motioned to table the approval of the Hunting Ordinance from today’s meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bowen said he wanted the Board to instruct the County Attorney to check into the law about right-of-way complaints and who enforces the trespassing laws.

**Health Department Budget Amendment - Dr. John Morrow, Health Director
Carolina Access III Pilot Program, Pediatric Clinic Access Coordinator**

Dr. Morrow introduced the Board of Health Chairman A. C. Turnage and thanked the Board for changing the Board of Health terms to three terms. He then informed the Board that Dr. David Bruton, Secretary of Health and Human services has designated Pitt County as one of two N.C. counties to pilot a Community Care Plan to improve access for Medicaid patients to healthcare services and to help control the county’s Medicaid cost. As part of this project, the health department will provide Care Coordination to Carolina Access Medicaid enrollees. This funding will be used to hire one full-time equivalent Public Health nurse as a Pediatric Clinic Access Coordinator who will help patients use their insurance plan properly and also avoid expensive emergency room and hospital admissions.

As a result of the good work on the Carolina Access I Pilot they moved from I to III. This will help save the County money and asked for permission to hire the Pediatric Clinic Access Coordinator.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted to approve the motion for the Health Department budget amendment.

Account No.	Title of Account	Increase	Decrease
155143 512000	Salaries	34,344.00	
155143 518100	FICA Taxes	2,628.00	
155143 518200	Retirement	1,680.00	
155143 518201	401K	1,632.00	
155143 518300	Hospital	2,832.00	
155143 518400	Life Insurance	139.00	
155143 518999	SL Inc Res	1,210.00	
155143 531200	Travel	535.00	
153143 443001	Contract Administration	45,000.00	

Award Contract Upgrade at ECTC (Business Incubator) - John Chaffee

Mr. Chaffee asked the Board for permission to proceed with the upgrades to the Technology Incubator (ECTC). The specific request was as follows:

- \$20,000 for Buildings and Grounds work
- \$21,000 for CA Lewis bid amount over \$250,000
- \$25,000 for Change Order for extra 400-500 sq. ft.
- \$ 4,000 for contingency

- \$70,000 Industrial Development Fund Balance
- \$250,000 for Existing Project Funds
- \$320,000 Total Project

He asked that the Board approve a budget amendment to transfer \$70,000 of Industrial Development Fund Balance that was not expended in the last fiscal year; approve the contract with CA Lewis for \$271,000 for the upgrade of lab space; and further, to authorize the County Manager to negotiate and execute the contract and change order once reviewed by the County Attorney and the Risk Manager.

Mr. Chaffee said that he had a lease with a tenant for a specific space and the County will be reimbursed by the rental funds for all expenses. The original budget was \$250,000. The project was advertised to seek bids and the plans and specifications were placed at two plan rooms. Six bidders responded. On Friday, July 9 at 9:00 am the bids were opened. The bids were as follows:

Contractor	License No.	Bid Bond	Base Bid	Addendum
Boyd Associates Greenville, NC	7664	yes	\$307,000	yes
Daniels and Daniels Const. Goldsboro, NC	23697	yes	\$311,000	yes
C.A. Lewis Greenville, NC	19294	yes	\$271,000	yes
D.S. Simmons Goldsboro, NC	7651	yes	\$312,750	yes

Eastern Construction Greenville, NC	3440	yes	\$354,610	yes
ConstrucTech Garner, NC	38605	yes	\$317,668	yes

Mr. Chaffee stated that C.A. Lewis was the low bidder at \$271,000. He stated that they are very experienced and he was excited to make the recommendation to award the bid to CA Lewis.

Commissioner Gaskins asked how this budget amendment would be funded. Mr. Chaffee stated that there is a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce which was \$400,000 for the project along with an EDA grant that matches funding. Mr. Chaffee said that the money is in place once the Board approves the budget amendment to use fund balance.

Mr. Chaffee said that the lease agreement is flexible relative to costs for upgrade of the space and the County will be reimbursed through the lease agreement. Commissioner Hammond asked about the change order. Mr. Chaffee said the demands have increased for the space so they need to provide additional square footage.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted to unanimously to approve the budget amendment requested; award the contract to C. A. Lewis in the amount of \$271,000; the \$20,000 for the change order; and the additional \$70,000 to be used from fund balance.

Establishment of a Complete County Committee for Census 2000 - Eddy Davis

Mr. Eddy Davis, County Planner, reported that they had been contacted by the U.S. Census Bureau to begin work on the census for the year 2000 and in addition a committee needs to be established. He said the Census Bureau is going to great lengths to assure as accurate a count as possible. The Planning Staff has been reviewing the annexation survey with current city limits lines and one Census block needed to be adjusted for that particular tract. He stated the City of Greenville also had a tract that was over that threshold. They were working on local updates of census addresses. Housing counts have been reviewed by staff. Several maps have been created with approximately 300 census blocks in the area with 28 blocks challenged. Mr. Davis introduced Ms. Jeanne McCurley from the Bureau of the Census.

Ms. McCurley explained the effects of the census on a community and its importance to local, state and federal funding. She stated that the US government distributes funds based on census figures. The Partnership program was expanded for 2000 census to educate and promote people in an effort to reach every individual in the Pitt County Community. She stated that they are trying to increase the mail back rate. The census will begin April 1st, 2000. In 1990, there was a sixty percent response rate on the mail backs and they need to find a better way to reach the people. The Census 2000 Committee will attempt to reach everyone in the community. There is a sample structure of the committee in the Board's package. Some communities have already formed their committees. Mr. Arlen Holt has offered some recommendations for this committee. She stated that this Census will impact the community for the next 10 years.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to endorse concept to have one complete count committee for Pitt County and allow the staff to put the committee together.

PITT COMMUNITY COLLEGE - John Bulow

Mr. Bulow stated that he had been working with the Mental Health Program and Pitt Community College concerning the Greenhouse project. The Mental Health Area Board had voted in 1998-1999 to discontinue operation of the Greenhouse at the County Home site. This program had benefited Pitt Community College because they were using it to train workers for placement in area nurseries as technicians. Pitt Community College officials would like the County to allow them to continue to use this facility as a training site and the County currently has no need for the three affected structures located on this property or the greenhouse. Mr. Bulow stated that County staff feels that a formal agreement should be made between the County and the Community College for this purpose. The contract allows the College to use the three mobile units and four greenhouses identified in the contract as instructional sites for \$1.00 per year. Furthermore, the contract defines the maintenance responsibilities of each party. The contract period is for one year and may be canceled at any time with 90 days notice and vacancy to occur at the end of the instructional session.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to approve the contractual agreement for Pitt Community College to utilize the Greenhouse facilities at the County Home Site for instructional purposes.

Increase in Waste Industries Fees - Phil Dickerson

Mr. Phil Dickerson stated that Waste Industries contracts with Pitt County to haul solid waste from the Pitt County Transfer Station to a landfill in Bertie County. They have requested an increase in their fees. Mr. Dickerson's recommendation was as follows:

1. Add \$0.42 per ton to the company's disposal fee for a total of \$28.37 per ton.
2. Amend the contract to require Waste Industries to give the County a credit when the cost of fuel drops below \$1.05 per gallon.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Gaskins, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to approve the increase in Waste Industries contract as recommended by Phil Dickerson, County Engineer.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and the Chairman stated that the meeting would reconvene at 12:40 for completion of the agenda items.

Chairman James reconvened the meeting at 12:40.

Vice Chairman Savage was absent. All other commissioners were present.

Voting Delegate for North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Commissioner Terry Shank as the Board's Voting Delegate at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference on August 19-22, 1999.

Contract for Architectural Services for Contract , Phase II - Phil Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson stated that he needed the Board's approval to begin on the Phase II project for the Courthouse. The East Group proposes to provide services for the Courthouse Phase II for the following fees:

Design	\$280,081	(4.45% of construction cost)
Construction Administration	176,952	(24 months at \$7,373)

Services to Date	<u>109,768</u>
Grand Total	\$566,801 (9% of construction estimate)

Mr. Dickerson said that it should be noted that the cost for the architectural services, as a percent of the construction cost, is considerably higher than that for Phase I because it is renovation work which is more time consuming and complicated than new construction. People will have to be moved around. They will begin with renovation of the 1960's courthouse and then do the 1906 renovation.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted eight to one to approve the recommendation by the County Engineer to authorize the Chairman to execute the contract with The East Group to begin work on Pitt County Courthouse Phase II. Commissioner Hammond voted in opposition to the motion.

Permit Fees for Schools - Phil Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson informed the Board that all inspections, fire and building inspections, of Pitt County Schools have been done in the past without a fee. He recommended that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Emergency Services and Inspections Department to charge the schools the normal fees for permits and inspections. He stated that this would allow the County to show the impact on finances and staff for these services to the School System. He stated that the schools have to be inspected twice a year.

Commissioner Owens asked if the State has some accommodations for paying the County for those inspections. Mr. Dickerson stated that the State does not compensate for these expenses. Chairman James said that the purpose for this is putting the money where the expenses are incurred. Commissioner Hammond said they have operated many years without charging the schools for inspections. Commissioner Bowen said that the schools are keeping a closer account of the expenses so the County needs to keep some record of these expenses also.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted six to two to authorize the Emergency Services and Inspections Department to charge the Schools normal fees for permits and inspections. Commissioners in favor of this motion were: Gaskins, Ward, Bowen, Johnson and James. Commissioners opposed to the motion were: Owens and Hammond. Commissioner Savage was absent.

Governor's Clean N.C. 2000 Initiative

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution and appoint a Pitt County Clean 2000 committee. Mr. Dickerson will provide a committee recommendation.

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

July 12, 1999

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve the appearance of our roadsides by removing litter, collapsing or unsafe structures and other debris that create eyesores and harm the environment; and

WHEREAS, a clean environment impacts economic development, travel and tourism and the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to get North Carolinians to renew their sense of pride and recommit to keeping our state clean, the Governor has announced the Clean NC 2000 initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Clean NC 2000 initiative aims to improve the appearance of North Carolina by removing litter and other debris from our roadsides, rivers, lakes and streams; and

WHEREAS, Clean NC 2000 aims to educate all citizens about the harmful effects of litter; and

WHEREAS, there should be a partnership between the state and counties to clean up the state;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Pitt county that it endorses and supports the Clean NC 2000 initiative; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the County will assist in identifying a county-wide organization to identify the needs specific to Pitt County; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the County will designate a local coordinator that will work with the statewide coordinator.

ADOPTED this the 12th of July, 1999.

Eugene James, Chairman
Pitt County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board

Inclement Weather Policy - Tom Robinson

Mr. Robinson presented a proposed Inclement Weather Policy which addresses how to treat the employees during times that the county offices may be closed during inclement weather. He noted that one-third of the county workforce has to work during emergencies as part of their jobs. He stated that this is a conservative policy which pays an individual when they have worked. Other employees, who do not work because the offices are closed will be expected to take annual leave. If the offices are closed for less than a day, employees would get credit for that day. Mr. Robinson said that this policy is consistent with the State and the Hospital. Chairman James stated that he had requested a policy for this situation because the Board has been criticized because there was no policy. He said this is the policy recommended by the Manager. Mr. Robinson said that leave time can be advanced for new employees that do not have any time accumulated.

Commissioner Gaskins motioned, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, to approve the proposed inclement weather policy. Commissioner Owens said that people who work overtime or hard time, should be paid extra. Commissioner Shank said that employees should not be punished because of inclement weather and made to take their annual leave. She stated that if

the County wants to retain its employees, the Board should not adopt this policy. She also stated that she supported paying the people who work overtime rates, or compensate in some way.

Commissioner Bowen expressed that he did not believe in paying employees when they are not working. Commissioner Hammond disagreed and stated that the employees should not be penalized.

Chairman James called for a vote on the motion. Commissioners in favor of the motion were: James, Ward, Gaskins and Bowen. Commissioners opposed were: Shank, Johnson, Hammond, and Owens. The vote was four to four, therefore the motion failed. Commissioner Savage was absent.

Commissioner Bowen requested to put this item back on the agenda for the next meeting.

Commissioner Ward proposed that the Hunting Ordinance should be put back on the agenda for the next meeting. Commissioner Bowen asked to be excused from the meeting so he could attend another meeting. Chairman James stated Commissioner Bowen was excused.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolutions which were presented to Lauren Scott and Patient Gardner.

Joint Session with Mental Health Area Board

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. David White to introduce the Area Board members present. Mr. White stated that he appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Board of Commissioners. He then called their meeting to order.

Area Board members present were: Sharon Bradley, John Bulow, Diana Davenport, John Ferren, Charles Gaskins, Bonnie Feldbush, Bonnie Mani, Charles Mayo, Charles Mitchell, and Beverly Sheaffer.

Mr. Robinson stated that there were two ways to handle the finance situation with Mental Health. He said they could bring in those employees at Mental Health as county employees but he chose to only do that with the top position. The other option is to draft an agreement, which was in the Commissioner's agenda package for the County Finance Office to oversee the financial operations at Mental Health and the finance staff at Mental Health would remain State employees but would report to the County Finance Officer. This proposed agreement was mailed out to each Mental Health Area Board member. Mr. Robinson then asked the County Attorney to address the agreement.

JoAnne Burgdorff stated that there were minor changes made to the agreement since the one received by the Board of Commissioners. She stated that there are two options but one was recommended by Mark Botts at the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, to have the County Finance Officer supervise and direct the employees that oversee Mental Health finance. She stated that both parties have reviewed the agreement. The employees would stay under the State but the County Finance Officer would supervise and direct the finance employees based on the proposed agreement. The Boards discussed the proposed agreement. Mr. White said that some of the Area Board members have not received their copy of the agreement and they would like time to review the proposed agreement prior to making comments.

Mr. White said there are currently fifteen members on the Area Board. Four members are absent and eleven members are present. One person is on a leave of absence granted by the Area Board. Mr. White said that there will be a meeting with the executive committee to

review names for new Board members in order to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners as soon as possible.

Commissioner Owens said that some of the Board members seemed perplexed about the County taking over the finances.

Dr. Charles Mitchell, acting Area Director and Board member, said he questioned the discipline and control issue for Mental Health employees. He stated he was unsure as to how this would be addressed in this agreement. Chairman James suggested that the Area Board communicate with the County Manager how their Board responded to the proposed agreement and the Manager would report to the Board of Commissioners.

Technical Assistance Consultants (TAC) - Martha Knisley

Mr. Robinson introduced Ms. Martha Knisley, with Technical System Collaborative, nonprofit organization that assists Mental Health programs. He stated that she was recommended by Dr. Baggett to provide assistance for the Pitt County Mental Health Program. He said Dr. Baggett suggested that the County may consider changing to a multi-county program and Ms. Knisley could provide information on various options for the County Mental Health program.

Ms. Knisley said her firm has been very active in North Carolina. They were founded with the specific purpose of assisting Mental Health programs in many areas. Their existence came about as the state and federal governments began to recognize that more technical support would be needed. They have worked on the future of seven projects so far. She reviewed the counties in North Carolina that they have done work for or were asked by the State to do due diligence for merger reasons. She said they are very current on legal financial requirements for Mental Health programs and noted that Medicaid issues have prompted a great deal of these situations. She stated that this is a very unique situation here and it has a long history of being a single county program. Ms. Knisley stated that sometimes there is a point in time that the old way of business is not functional anymore.

She noted the following options to look at:

- continue as it is
- Utilize County for Administrative Functions (long range of options)
- Merge with other programs, management, consolidations, etc.

Could be 5-10 different types of options

Talk about a process for review.

- Solicit Input from Stakeholders
- Analyze information
- Conduct Internal/Community Interviews
- Focus on Both Internal and External Issues that Impact the Program
- Develop Report with Strengths and Limitations for Each Options

Ms. Knisley stated that it generally takes ninety days for this type of review and reviewed the principles for the review.

- Value will be added and the highest quality of services possible should be maintained
- The risk of reduced services and/or financial risk to Pitt County should be minimized.

She stated that they will look at all aspects of the program and not all options will stand out as the best. Some options will be better or less risky. She made the following overall comments:

1. No area program in North Carolina has done better than breakeven since New Years Day 1998. Fund Balances were built up several years ago. IF some don't change the way they operate they will be closing the doors soon.
2. Result of many new requirements and required national creditation. It is a very expensive endeavor.
3. Reimbursement rates per service units from Medicaid, Medicare and Insurance companies are going down.
4. New Medicaid requirements, which if your record keeping is not perfect, you can be considered fraudulent and it could cost a lot of money.
5. Two State studies that may pre-empt this research. The State may come in prior to completion of their research.
6. Some new requirements which can be done in a merger situation.

Ms. Knisley said that every Area Board in the State is struggling with these same matters. She discussed the Duplin County situation.

Commissioner Hammond asked about her comment on penalties from Medicaid. Ms. Knisley stated that they have only penalized the Boards but is aware of subpoenaed employee personnel records.

Commissioner Ward thanked the Area Board members for staying with Mental Health to help out of this situation. She stated that this decision impacted the future of Mental Health in Pitt County. She said that they need to make the best decisions for our citizens. She asked for a recommendation or if they could give a recommendation within sixty days on an Area Director.

Ms. Knisley said it was important to continue to move the search forward for an Area Director because there is an existing need for a very strong leader now. She said they need someone to help the program through this change.

Ms. Ward said there still needs to be a Pitt County leader. She asked about the impact on the Area Board. Ms. Knisley said this should have very little impact. If it were to be a merged area program there would be a need for additional members for committees and they can be the real leaders. She said they need strong people who can protect the County's interest.

Mr. White asked about State activities.

Ms. Knisley said one study was being conducted by the State auditor and a number of programs needed in the future and merged programs. The State Division of Mental Health has issued a recommendation that looks at the future county roles. She said they are out there for the whole state and she has spoken with the members of the General Assembly. She stated that there is one camp talking about making multi-county programs being the guardian of the County and not the State.

Ms. Bonnie Mani asked Ms. Knisley to consider how she would feel if she were interviewing for the Area Director position if the Area Board was considering merging the programs. Ms. Mani said that she is on the Search committee and they were looking to begin interviewing within the next thirty to sixty days and Ms. Knisley is asking for sixty days to do this study. Mr. John Ferren spoke about what the State is doing in Mental Health. Ms. Knisley said they are concerned about who assumes that costs of these deficits. She said you have to consider how disruptive or destructive all this change could be and they have to decide when is the right time to make any changes, if necessary.

Dr. Mitchell said they are presently working on a new management information system. He said they are more organized now and the staff is working very hard on their accreditation. He said if the program is merged, who would be in charge and what authority would the county commissioners have legally or financially. He wanted to make sure that they receive good accurate data from this study.

Ms. Knisley said given this environment the search for an area director is going to be a challenge. Anyone applying should want the security that all the board members were supportive of a set course. She stated that the Duplin-Sampson program has set their goal to be the first in the State to get accreditation. Consolidation of the program may improve on the information systems investment. The information systems program may work for a multi-county program.

Mr. Charles Mayo said he wants to see how levels of service might change. Commissioner Hammond asked how a package could be put together that would interest anyone who would consider coming into the Pitt County Mental Health Program. Ms. Knisley said to lay all the facts on the table for any candidate. Some very strong candidates would see this program as a challenge.

Ms. Bonnie Feldbush asked what salary did she think it would take to pay someone to come into this position. Ms. Knisley suggested in the \$70,000 range.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted six to one to initiate the procedure to contract with the services with Ms. Knisley's group, Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc., to do a study and make recommendation on the County's Mental Health Program. Commissioner Gaskins opposed this motion.

Ms. Sharon Bradley said she was concerned that this decision was being made based on one proposal and not hearing from other proposals.

Mr. Robinson said that this Board needs to see the contract and the scope of services be outlined.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, to recommend that the County Manager be added to the search committee for Mental Health Area Director so that he can lend his expertise to this committee. Dr. Mitchell stated that Mr. Bulow is a member of search committee as a representative of the Manager's office. Commissioners in favor of the motion: Hammond, Gaskins and James. Commissioners opposed were: Shank, Johnson, Owens and Ward.

Commissioner Shank said that the Board needs a special called meeting to move forward on the contract. Mr. Robinson said that he would like to review the contract with Mental Health. He stated the Board is scheduled to meet two more times this month and will meet on demand if necessary.

Mr. Robinson said that he is scheduled to be present for the Area Director interviews. Ms. Feldbush said that at one point the commissioners had requested he be on the committee and Mr. Robinson stated that he did not have time but requested to be included in the interviews.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board