

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
OCTOBER 4, 1999**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session meeting on Monday, October 4, 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 (arrived later)
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 T. Bryan, Director of Financial Services

Call to Order and welcome by Chairman James.

Prayer by Commissioner Bowen.

Pledge led by Commissioner Shank.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman James asked for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Owens asked to add an item concerning mosquitoes. Chairman James stated that he wanted to discuss the Board holding meetings in the several towns in the County. Mr. Robinson asked to include a resolution addressing a request to extend the deadline on applications for assistance for tobacco growers.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the requested additions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - Global Transpark Development Zone Loan Applications - JoAnne Burgdorff

Public Hearing on Town of Ayden and Greenville Utilities Commission to construct an 8" gas main along NC Highway 11 from south of Winterville to the Worthington Industrial Park, south of Ayden. Estimated cost of project: \$500,000

Chairman James announced the public hearing was open. There were no comments made by the public or the commissioners. No action was required on this item.

Public Hearing on Town of Grifton to construct a pump station and force main along Highland Avenue to support gravity sewer system for 600 acre area north of Grifton. Estimated cost of project: \$261,000

Chairman James announced the public hearing was open. There were no comments made by the public or the commissioners. No action was required on this item.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted unanimously to re-endorse the Global Transpark loan applications for the Town of Grifton and the Town of Ayden and Greenville Utilities Commission.

Public Hearing on Transfer/sale of Multimedia Cablevision to Cox Communications, Inc. -

Chairman James announced the public hearing was open. There were no comments by the public or the commissioners.

Mr. Robinson said that the Board should hold the public hearing but not all the fees have been received by the County so he would not recommend taking action as this time.

Ms. Burgdorff stated that the transfer payment has been received but that the other payment due to Pitt County had not been made because she had not yet completed the negotiation on the letter of agreement. She said she had been working on it prior to the flood. She stated she had talked with them and they fully intend to send the money and they are waiting for her to complete the paperwork. She suggested that the Board could approve the transfer/sale subject to completion of the paperwork and fee due payment. She stated the company had paid the \$6,000 transfer fee based on the County's ordinance but had not yet paid the \$46,000 in prior franchise fees.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to approve the transfer/sale of Multimedia Franchise subject to the appropriate payments being received by the County.

Public Hearing on Rural Operating Assistance Program - John Bulow

Mr. Bulow informed the Board that this Rural Operating Assistance Program was formerly known as the Elderly and Handicapped Funding Program. He provided the Board with the recommendation on allocation of these State funds from the Pitt Area Transit Board as follows:

Council on Aging	\$30,870
Department of Social Services	9,469
GREAT	5,383
Mental Health	5,967
Eastern Carolina Vocational Center	7,718
Creative Living Center	<u>5,448</u>
Total	\$64,855

In addition, the Department of Social Services is recommended to receive the \$20,025 allocation for "Work First".

Chairman James announced that the public hearing was open. There were no comments.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Gaskins, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation from the PATS Board for distribution of the Rural Operating Assistance Funds as noted above.

Vice Chairman Savage arrived at this time, 9:10 a.m.

Chairman James stated that he wanted to clarify to the employees present that the county employees are going to be paid for the time not worked during the flood from Hurricane Floyd. Mr. Robinson said that the Board had previously instructed him to follow the State policy with regard to these payments. The Governor was not requiring State employees to use their vacation time. He stated that this was a Presidential declared disaster and employees will be paid and those that worked will be paid overtime.

**EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS
OCTOBER 4, 1999**

5 Years

<u>Roseanna</u> M. Biehn	Mental Health
Benjamin (<u>Ben</u>) L. Buck	Sheriff
<u>David</u> E. Carter	Social Services
Michael (<u>Mike</u>) C. Clark	Sheriff
<u>Maggie</u> A. Cox	Health
<u>Paula</u> L. Dance	Sheriff
<u>Tony</u> A. Dobbs	Detention Center
<u>Belinda</u> J. Edwards	Mental Health
<u>Bryan</u> S. Evans	Soil & Water
Thomas (<u>Harold</u>) H. Evans III	Buildings & Grounds
<u>Darlene</u> Gardner	Social Services
<u>Stephen</u> L. Godley	Health
<u>Katrina</u> A. Howard	Mental Health
<u>Joseph</u> B. Johnson	Detention Center
Sandra (<u>Sandy</u>) R. Jones	Health
<u>Catonna</u> L. Mitchell	Detention Center
Kimberly (<u>Kim</u>) M. Mumford	Legal
<u>Barbara</u> A. Oberlton	Social Services
<u>Joy</u> D. Peaden	Sheriff
<u>Lisa</u> P. Schrade	Mental Health
Deborah (<u>Debbie</u>) B. Sudekum	Mental Health
<u>William</u> T. Turnage III	Detention Center
<u>Nancy</u> H. Wingate	Health

10 Years

<u>Catherine</u> F. Ange	Social Services
<u>Evelyn</u> L. Gorham	Social Services
<u>Michele</u> H. McCorkle	Social Services
<u>Victoria</u> H. Nobles	Social Services
<u>Peter</u> G. Sword	Social Services
<u>Theresa</u> T. Syth	Mental Health
<u>Deborah</u> A. Warner	Detention Center

15 Years

<u>Susan</u> J. Banks	County Manager
<u>Cheryll</u> D. Best	Social Services
<u>Nancy</u> M. Distefano	Mental Health
<u>Mary</u> L. Hall	Social Services
<u>Deborah</u> B. Herring	Health
<u>Linda</u> H. Million	Social Services
<u>Mary</u> L. Streeter	Health
<u>Candace</u> G. Watson	Health

20 Years

<u>Dianne</u> H. Barnes	Social Services
Henry (<u>Tommy</u>) T. Holloman	Mental Health
<u>Vickie</u> L. Jones	Social Services
<u>Karen</u> L. Kilpatrick	Sheriff
<u>Levi</u> E. Rasbury	MIS

25 Years

<u>Curtis</u> L. Best	Mental Health
<u>Gloria</u> C. Boyd	Health
<u>Grace</u> R. Little	Health
<u>Ward</u> Parker	Finance

30 Years

Sarah (<u>Sallie</u>) W. Williamson	Social Services
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PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO THE BOARD

- Vernon Morrison - spoke about the wetlands at the airport and a tidal wave at the Tar River. Seven feet of water from the airport was in his office because the City and County wanted a bigger airport. He complained about the emergency management for the County. He said he waded through water up to his waist to get to Welcome school for food. County and City Managers are supposed to be doing a good job. He also stated that the Police are picking on a member of this Board.
- Nancy Colville - resident of Greenville, read her statement concerning Hurricane Floyd. She spoke of needing a leader on the Board of Commissioners. She spoke to the recent conduct of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. She stated that she believed it was in the best interest of the citizens of Pitt County for the chairman and vice chairman to step down. She spoke of unprofessional behavior and personal interest by the Chairman and self-gratification by the Vice Chairman.
- Keith Cooper - stated God was sending a message with Hurricane Floyd. He expressed his thanks to the many volunteers and gratitude to all the agencies that worked over and beyond the call of duty. He addressed the September 24 Board meeting where the Board voted to restrict people from entering damaged homes saying that the Chairman and Vice Chairman did not support the safety of citizens to keep them from being drown or electricuted. He stated there was a \$175,000 contingency fund in the County which was designed to be used during dire emergencies. He asked the Board to match all donations to flood victims up to \$50,000. He said that if the Congress could provide relief, so should the local government.
- Jack Blount - addressed where to put the destroyed mobile homes in the County. If insurance companies pay the owners for their homes they are then turning the homes back over to the homeowners and it is an extra expense to the homeowners to get them moved. He stated that the mobile home parks can not sell the people new houses if they can not get the old ones moved out. He suggested the County contract with a landowner in these areas to put the damaged mobile homes on and then they could be burned or destroyed. He stated that he was a lawyer and in real estate but that this is a problem that needs to be addressed.

Chairman James stated he had been working on the problem of moving the flooded or damaged mobile homes out so the new ones can replace them. Mr. Robinson said Phil Dickerson would be giving a report on this item.

Chairman James said he would meet with the citizens following the meeting that made comments about he and the Vice Chairman.

ITEMS FOR REPORT

Manager's Report **Hurricane Floyd Reports by Various Staff**

Mr. Robinson reported that Bobby Joyner was not present because he was meeting with the FEMA representatives at his own home to look at his personal damage and that Mr. Jimmie Ramsey would be reporting on his behalf. Mr. Jimmie Ramsey, Emergency Management Coordinator for Madison County, on State Emergency Response Team. Mr. Ramsey said it was his job to coordinate the State resources needed during a natural disaster such as the one which has occurred in Pitt County. He reported that the National Guard had performed 173 ground missions. Over 600 air missions were performed with National Guard helicopters, as well as, Forestry Services assets. The Emergency Operations Center was opened on Wednesday, September 15 and has been open twenty-four hours per day until today. It will close at 12:00 p.m. starting tonight.

Mr. Ramsey reported that the shelters were currently housing 145 people in Ayden; 57 in Farmville; and 160 in Greenville as of the latest count. The Red Cross has readied apartments and some people are moving into them today. He stated that there will be meetings in the Farmville, Belvoir, Grifton and Clarks Neck communities in the following weeks to discuss unmet needs and see what the County or State can do to fill in the gray areas. He stated that there was an Emergency Plan for Pitt County which was put into action and followed. He stated that upon his arrival he met with Bobby Joyner and they reviewed the Emergency Plan. He stated that because this was such a catastrophic situation to the State of North Carolina it took a while to get everything in order.

Vice Chairman Savage asked about homeless people and where this disaster ranked in the State in his experience. Mr. Ramsey said this was the worse disaster because the flooding and the standing water made it last the longest.

Commissioner Ward asked what agencies would be represented at the community meetings they have scheduled. Mr. Ramsey stated that there will be representation from the IRS, Red Cross, Salvation Army, State Emergency Recovery Team, and the County will be present at the meetings. There will be a checklist of needs which the individuals will review and complete.

Property Damage Report

Tax Assessor's Office

Mr. Glenn Cutrell provided the overall damage report as follows:

INITIAL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT DUE TO HURRICANE FLOYD

Total Number of Properties Visited with Damage	\$2,823
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Total Number of Units Uninhabitable	2,160
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Total Damage Estimate Reported:
(Does not include Greenville City Limits)

Homes, Mobile Homes, Apartments, etc.	\$ 83,376,000
Personal Property	7,500,000
Vehicles (Estimate)	<u>10,000,000</u>
	\$100,876,000
Municipalities Estimated Losses	\$59,616,000
Agricultural Estimated Losses	\$96,274,000

Mr. Cutrell stated that these were preliminary initial damage assessment figures without the City of Greenville. He estimated that the City of Greenville had \$25-\$30 million in damage. Mr. Cutrell said that he figures the amount will increase to \$286 million in taxable property was damaged and this does not include business losses or equipment inside of businesses and warehouses. He said that as more reports come in these numbers will increase. This is a conservative figure. Mr. Robinson said that a lot of apartments in Greenville were damaged which will increase these figures. Mr. Cutrell said two-thirds of these damages are mobile homes.

Mr. Cutrell stated that the Geographic Information Services purged from the computer the figure of \$2.4 total tax value in the one hundred year flood plain plus one quarter of a mile. The \$1.6 billion figure earlier mentioned represented building structures in the flood zone. He stated that this disaster will probably exceed \$300 million in damages.

Commissioner Hammond stated that he had \$650,000 in funeral home equipment in a warehouse on the north side of the river. He said that they are condemning these structures and estimates of contents have not been included because they have not been able to get into the structures due to the flooding.

Damage to County Buildings - John Bulow

Mr. Bulow reported that two sections of the roof were blown off the Agricultural Building. Buildings and Grounds staff placed tar paper over damage and they have tried to salvage everything possible but this will be fully insured with \$2500 deductible. The County Maintenance Building had a tree fall on it and a tree fell on the storage shed which destroyed the shed. Mr. Bulow noted that all of these were insured expenses. The Mental Health Building had two leaks and some minimal carpet damage. The carpet damage came from the wind blowing the rain in under the door and it will not be covered by insurance. Some vehicles were flooded but they were salvageable. He stated that damages to County buildings were minimal.

Public Safety - Sheriff Mac Manning

The Sheriff expressed his appreciation to the staff of the Sheriff's office who worked to rescue and evacuate the citizens. He stated that there had been very little loss of life thanks to their dedication. Many of the Sheriff's office employees suffered personal losses and continued to work long hours regardless. Many officers committed their own resources such as boats, trucks and jet skis. He thanked the numerous citizens that volunteered.

Sheriff Manning reported that there were 304 missions performed by the Sheriff's Department and thousands of people were evacuated from their homes. He stated that the movement of equipment was a logistical nightmare. Detention Center staff provided around the clock safety and security at the jail. He said that Sheriff's offices across the State sent law enforcement officers with over 200 officers assisting from across the State. He thanked the Fire Departments and their volunteers that assisted in the recovery efforts. There were checkpoints set up where the river had over run its banks and intensive controls were manned. Then there

was the search for survivors which had to be done by staff and volunteers. He stated that the disaster re-entry permits were invaluable in helping identify people who belonged with their homes and to keep looters away for those areas. He commended his personnel, the Emergency Operations Center and State workers.

Sheriff Manning stated that the Sheriff's Office is gradually scaling down. The road checkpoints have been eliminated. Only fifty out-of-county officers remain in Pitt County.

Vice Chairman Savage noted that with the size of this disaster he had only received two complaints and Sheriff's Officers have done an outstanding job in a most difficult situation.

Commissioner Shank offered praise to the other personnel including the 200 people the State supplied which were from Alcohol Law Enforcement, Wildlife Commission, Military Police and numerous Deputies from across the State. Sheriff Manning noted that there were personnel also sent from other states for assistance.

Chairman James said he spent seven nights out of his home. He said that an individual does not know if they have not been through it. He said he commended the departments and wants to discuss needs for the future in case anything like this ever happens again.

Commissioner Bowen asked Sheriff Manning about the re-entry permits stating that he understood the amendment to the proclamation which was passed by the Board on Friday, September 24th was to keep people out of their homes. The Sheriff said that the purpose of the re-entry permits were to identify property owners in the watered areas and the people who had the permits were instructed on safety, and signed a waiver about what they could expect if they went into their homes prior to inspection. He said the home inspections process was a separate issue. If the home was in need of repair or beyond repair it will be condemned.

Chairman James stated that the people had to go back to their homes because, if they were like him, they only had fifteen minutes notice to get out of their homes. He said everything they owned and worked for all their lives was in their homes. He said that the people had common sense and they would not risk their lives for material things. Chairman James stated that he appreciated what the Sheriff's Department did through these circumstances.

Sheriff Manning said that as the waters receded, the inspections were done block by block, but the re-entry permits were a separate issue than inspections. He said they were trying to do this to protect the public and look for survivors. Commissioner Bowen said that this information was not clearly understood at the September 24, 1999 meeting.

Mr. Robinson said that the Mobile Command Unit worked very well during this storm, flooding and recovery. Sheriff Manning said the Mobile Command Unit was used as a third console and rescues were dispatched from the mobile command unit.

Public Assistance Report - Ed Garrison, Social Services Director

Mr. Garrison reported that the shelters were opened at 6:00 a.m. on September 15th. At the height of the shelter activity, 2,101 people were housed in shelters in Pitt County. The County came out of the shelter operations on September 21st when the Red Cross took over. The food stamp process began on September 22nd for emergency needs. During that time, 7143 families applied for emergency food stamps. All but 214 were eligible for food stamps. He said 6,635 families will have cards by the end of today. The remainder should have them by the end of this week. He stated that they have begun taking applications for emergency assistance.

Mr. Garrison reported that there were 227 households helped with emergency assistance and this number will continue to grow steadily. He said the Governor's Disaster Relief fund will significantly help the citizens of Pitt County. He stated that the County has received help from

the Red Cross, National Guard, Salvation Army, Forestry Services and other agencies that will be moving out and it will then be up to the community to help. Vice Chairman Savage said that the effects of all their work were seen on the north side of the river and he appreciated what the Social Services staff did during that time period. Commissioner Ward said that the Board needs to point out how effectively the county people rallied to run the shelters for almost a week before the Red Cross took them over. There was a difficult time with shelters all over this county.

Chairman James said that the local people ran those shelters and the Board should give credit to the people who were there in the shelters. Commissioner Shank said that County Emergency Plan says the Red Cross will take over in 12 to 24 hours. She stated her concern because the National Red Cross did not get to Pitt County until a week after the disaster hit. She stated her appreciation of how much your staff has done.

Commissioner Hammond commented that there was a lot of private help that was event during the crisis. Churches have been feeding people and donating clothes and furniture to people that were distressed. He stated that there was so much donated they are offering it to others beside the disaster victims.

Vice Chairman Savage stated that he appreciated the Red Cross efforts once they got here and that they were also feeding people who were volunteering in the clean up. He also asked where all the water came from in this flood. He asked why the County did not forewarn the citizens about the likelihood of flooding. Chairman James stated that he could explain about the water. He stated that as the wind blows, all the water from Virginia went to Rocky Mount and it came into the Tar River. Alpines and Pocosin stayed dry. All the water from Contentnea Creek came down. Pitt County is in the low area and it went out Highway 11. The elevation is higher on this side of the river. Mr. Robinson also responded that the County staff was listening to the National Weather service and getting the word out on flooding continuously on the television as well as the radio stations.

Public Health Report - Dr. John Morrow

Dr. Morrow said that the Health Department was back on regular hours but they were coordinating with the Red Cross on staffing of nurses in the shelters. He said they are continuing to get help from nurses across the State and the Hospital. Over 6,000 free tetanus shots have been given throughout the County. Flood waters put people at risk and these people need tetanus. The WIC program is back in its regular office and offering services throughout the County. The present caseload is 4,070. The Health Education staff worked on press releases and developed materials on flood damaged homes on how to clean them and safety issues as well as on the inspections process. Agriculture Extension has also helped. These materials were published in English and Spanish versions. He said that they have a phone in line for advise on safety and health and how to clean up after the flood. They are assisting people on death certificates because there was flooding of cemeteries. Birth certificates and disease rates are being reviewed. Environmental Health is doing water testing of wells. There has been 400 free water tests donated. Environmental Health staff is also working with the local restaurants to safe guard the food supply. Twenty restaurants are closed at the present because of flood damage. Dr. Morrow stated that the staff is doing a lot of testing air quality as people move back into homes. They are providing information to help citizens to decontaminate their homes if they were flooded. Disposal of small animals is being managed by Environmental Health and Cooperative Extension is disposing of large animals.

Dr. Morrow noted that mosquito control is a concern. He said he anticipates an increase in mosquitoes. They are currently doing landing counts to monitor the numbers. Some municipalities have already sprayed. They are also trying to get larvacide to help kill mosquitoes because the spraying kills the living mosquitoes but does nothing about the eggs. Commissioner Bowen said he had heard there was a concern by the bee keepers. Dr. Morrow said that they will be coordinated with before spraying begins. Commissioner Bowen said he would like to get

spraying started as early as possible. Commissioner Owens asked Dr. Morrow when he anticipates the spraying to begin. Dr. Morrow said that it would depend on completion of the landing counts.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously for the Health Department staff to pursue with speed on the eradication by spraying of mosquitoes in a legal and safe manner.

Commissioner Shank spoke about a call for medication which came into the Emergency Operations Center and how the Geographic Information staff brought up the house on their system which provided the owner's address, then the Department of Transportation determined if the roads were operable and the medication was sent to the individual. She noted that these were resources that were always available and that this was an excellent process which worked well.

Vice Chairman Savage complemented the Health Clinics that were set up at each shelter and stated they were excellent. He said they were like a mini-health department. Dr. Morrow stated that the Health clinics were manned by the Health Department staff initially. Mr. Robinson stated that all of those efforts were organized through the Emergency Operations Center and Bobby Joyner.

Temporary Housing - Eddy Davis

Mr. Davis stated that three efforts were currently organized for temporary housing.

- 1) The State with FEMA staff are looking for vacate houses, apartments, motel rooms. County supplied a list of mobile home parks and asked for vacancies from 2 to 2,000. Local rental companies are assisting with information
- 2) Putting people back on their own sight is another initiative. Flooded homes that need repair or replaced, they may put the travel trailer on their own property which is a priority for FEMA. There are 100 sites that have been approved and they are working to get the homes set up. These homes will be available for up to eighteen months.
- 3) Two sites being constructed for 8 x 30 feet travel trailers coming in from dealers all across the United States.

Mr. Davis stated that one site is on the County Home property. Water, sewer, electricity and gravel streets are being constructed. He stated that there are mammoth efforts in getting this work done. He said people are out there working from sun up to sun down. The two hundred travel trailers on this site will be available complete. T.A. Lovin is doing the contract work on the sites. Mr. Davis stated that an individual, Mr. Boyd arrived by helicopter yesterday to take over the temporary housing process. He stated that they are looking at the 18th of October before the County Home site is ready.

Mr. Davis reported that in Grifton, the Contentnea Metropolitan Sewer District property will house seventy-nine travel trailers. He stated that some will be ready Thursday or Friday of this week and they will be letting people move into them. FEMA officials are working on the coordinated process with the individuals.

Chairman James expressed concern about the students and that they need to be placed in their own school districts. He stated that FEMA and the Red Cross' priorities are to take care of the people in Shelters along with Red Cross. He stated that the first priority is to get them out of the shelters. He said they are working on a site north of the river. Commissioner Hammond said the School Board instructed the children to report to the nearest school in their area. Chairman James stated that teachers and guidance counselors are being moved to different schools also. Vice Chairman Savage asked if the stability of children was being addressed. Mr. Davis stated that approximately one hundred of the mobile units are designated, and if the

people own their property, they will be able to put one of the temporary homes on their existing property. CMS and County home property is presently being coordinated.

Mr. Davis stated that the property outside of Grifton is being evaluated for sixty mobile homes. The property north of the river is private property, behind Peaden's Grill and it has sewer and water access. This site would hold up to one hundred fifty mobile homes with the capability to expand. Mr. Boyd the representative from the State, said they were currently negotiating with the property owner on the Grifton property. State property office has been given several options for property. Some type of municipal sewer needs to be available on these sites. Mr. Davis stated that the State makes the agreement with individual property owners for use of the sites.

Mr. Robinson said FEMA and the State work together on the sites but that FEMA has to inspect the sites and make a determination that they can be used. In addition, he noted that the individuals who were flooded out and need temporary accommodations must apply through the FEMA office. Chairman James spoke on the need to have a central staging location for the flooded trailers to be placed until they dry out and can be moved.

Chairman James called for a ten minute break at 11:20 a.m.

Chairman James reconvened the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Debris Clearance and Building Inspections - Phil Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson reported that they are handling six hundred tons of debris a day at the clearing station and getting bigger. On a normal day, they would handle about three hundred tons of debris. Waste companies do not have enough trailers to haul the debris away right now. Mr. Dickerson said that E.R. Lewis, Contractor, agreed to let them dispose debris on their property. EJE Recycling area has been used for staging mobile homes off site. Mr. Dickerson said he would like to contract for removal of homes, and the owners would apply for permission to have homes torn down.

Mr. Dickerson informed the Board that he would like to contract with the Wooten Company to prepare grant and loan documents as needed due to Hurricane Floyd. The Division of Highways will schedule a period of time to pick up debris on the right-of-way. He said the State has scheduled a hazardous waste collection day on October 23rd, 1999. Mr. Dickerson said there is a staging area that is sufficient for the time being for the County's needs and they looking for additional sites. He stated that they are already grinding limbs at the landfill. He said that once the County begins to provide this service, the County will have to pay for it and be reimbursed by FEMA.

Vice Chairman Savage asked about burning the uninhabitable units and how much time will all this take. Mr. Dickerson said it would be in the two to three weeks range if you want the County to move it with FEMA coordination.

Building Inspections - Phil Dickerson

Mr. Dickerson stated that this massive damage was done by flooding and has caused numerous problems. There are at a minimum electrical failures, bacteria and fungus problems. He said they were addressing the situation in the following ways:

1. Volunteer Inspectors. 6-39 volunteers daily, architects and engineers, contractors, students from NCSU, ECU construction and management, health and mental health and others assisting with inspections.
2. Go out and give homeowners suggestions on how to clean it up
3. Owners would go in and mitigate damage.
4. Volunteers check moisture level

5. Normal inspection process is done with electrical and building inspections

Mr. Dickerson reported that they have been through most of the flooded houses at this point.

Chairman James asked why the utilities company in Tarboro/Edgecombe County and Greenville Utilities Commission were not following the same procedures. He said that meters were pulled in the Edgecombe-Martin County areas if water got in the house. He said there are hundreds of trailers and homes with no electricity. Mr. Dickerson stated that if there is a circuit that is energized and dangerous then they will pull the meters.

Contracts and Consumer Protection - JoAnne Burgdorff

Mrs. Burgdorff reported that she had contacted the Attorney General and there were reports that there are many scams going on in the disaster areas. They have numerous sources of information available for consumers and are establishing a hotline. A Disaster Relief Package with important phone numbers has been generated for the public. She highlighted areas that are addressed in their package. There are brochures available in the Legal Department and Cooperative Extension Service.

Mrs. Burgdorff reported that she had also been working with Greenville Home Builders Association and will be meeting with them again this afternoon. People are urged not to make any deals with people they do not know, and to get referrals but there is no central source for people to call for references at this time. The State is setting up a number where a homeowner can call and make a complaint and would also use as a referral source. They hope to have the number published this week.

Mrs. Burgdorff stated that there have been some landlord tenant problems with landlords moving students back into dwellings that are not habitable. She stated that she has been working with the Health Department Director to check out the Health Standards for these apartments.

Vice Chairman Savage asked about how much money the County has spent. Commissioner Hammond said he had received phone calls stating that some of the hotels had raised their rates in Greenville.

Mr. Robinson responded to Vice Chairman Savage's question by saying that the County staff had been documenting everything but there is not a report on those figures prepared at this time.

Volunteer Coordination Efforts - Florida Hardy

Ms. Hardy stated that Becky Young had been working with the Red Cross and Salvation Army to coordinate volunteer efforts. There have been over six hundred individuals that have volunteered with this organized effort.

Mrs. Hardy reported that the preliminary figures are that forty-eight employees from ten departments were flooded out of their homes or received substantial damages. A five part plan has been created so county employees can assist other county employees. The plan includes counseling, cash, commodities, crisis time-sharing bank and clean-up assistance.

Grants and Rebuilding Process - Tom Robinson

Mr. Robinson reported that Governor Hunt has requested a plan of action for Pitt County to rebuild better than its previous state. Mr. Robinson said he would be meeting with agencies

and individuals to work on this plan. He stated that he was asking the Wooten Company for assistance in looking for grants and resources since they have experience in this type of situation.

Vice Chairman Savage said that it seems that getting people back into their homes should be before worrying about rebuilding. Mr. Robinson stated that the two matters need to be progressed on simultaneously because one could assist with the other. Chairman James stated that the County needs to provide the damage assessment figure to the Governor as soon as possible.

Commissioner Shank stated that a great deal of planning should be done for reconstructing the County. She said she thought the Governor meant he wanted the figures for the immediate needs, not the long range plans. She said she wants this planning done very carefully. Commissioner Hammond agreed that the Governor said he wanted the figure for the immediate needs. Mr. Robinson said he hears what each commissioner is saying and will also be looking at the planning efforts. It was suggested that the snagging of Contentnea Creek was needed. Mr. Robinson said he would get housing information and look into preparing a long range plan to address the long range needs.

Mr. Robinson reported the following:

- The joint meeting with the Mental Health Area Board was rescheduled to October 21, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. to be held in the Agricultural Building Auditorium.
- NC 2000 Consolidated Action Plan meeting will be held October 14, 1999 at Beaufort Community College, Washington, NC from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Members of Planning Staff will attend.
- Land Development Plan Workshop on Wednesday, October 20th at James Sprunt Community College, Kenansville
- Rescheduled the County Auction for October 23 (due to the hurricane)

ITEMS FOR CONSENT

David Hammond motioned for approval of the consent items. Commissioner Shank seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

1. Budget Amendment - General Fund

Mental Health

<u>Account Number:</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
195209-552000	Computer	1,775.00	
193209-484000	Contribution & Donations	1,775.00	

OJJ Grants

<u>Account Number:</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
102900-499100	Fund Balance	8,707.00	
105860-569399	Intensive Family Based Intervention-Prior Year Refunds	2,181.00	
105890-569399	Project Safe Passage-Prior Year Refunds	2,685.00	

105830-569399	Psych. Services to Assist-Project Year Refunds	109.00
105830-569399	Juvenile Restitution-Prior Year Refunds	3,732.00

Misc. State Grants

<u>Account Number:</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
243640-436018	HCCBG Mid East	645,890	
245640-569013	Council on Aging	362,020	
245640-569015	Creative Living	55,595	
245640-569318	Pitt Co-DSS	228,275	

2. Transfer of Surplus Assets

In the past, Pitt County has furnished two vehicle for School Resource Officers assigned to school facilities in the unincorporated areas of the County. The Board of Education has decided to fund additional School Resource Officers and two of the officers will be assigned to schools in unincorporated Pitt County. They have requested two additional vehicles and we can fill this request with surplus cars which the Sheriff has. With the Board’s approval, the County will donate these vehicles and reflect the disposition on our fixed asset system.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Retention of Wooten Company

Mr. Robinson stated that the County needs assistance with grant writing and would like to retain the Wooten Company. He stated that the work done by the Wooten Company would be eligible for FEMA reimbursement. Commissioner Owens said he wanted to see a contract before approving the contract. Commissioner Bowen asked if the Mid-East Commission was providing this service for Pitt County. Mr. Robinson said the Wooten Company has specialized expertise which the County needs at this time.

Vice Chairman Savage motioned to retain the Wooten Company to work with staff to explore opportunities for funding associated with Hurricane Floyd. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shank. Some of the Board member discussed concerns about not having a fee for the service. Mr. Dickerson stated that he understood their concerns but in this situation the County needs move forward as quickly as possible to help the citizens. Commissioner Hammond asked what the Wooten Company was going to charge the County. Vice Chairman Savage said he supports the staff’s recommendation to retain the Wooten Company because of the past and current working relationship the County has had with the Wooten Company. Mr. Dickerson noted that there is a thirty days notice period for termination of the contract and he would provide the Board with monthly reports if they would like them. Mr. Bucky Moore, of the Wooten Company, spoke on behalf of the Wooten Company and noted that they are a local company and have worked with the County on many projects. He said he had proposed an hourly rate contract and would be working at the pleasure of the County. He stated he envisioned that most fees would be eligible for reimbursement from FEMA. Mr. Moore stated that in the past they had assisted Lenoir County and the City of Kinston to receive \$6 million in funds.

Ms. Burgdorff reminded the Board that there is a contract approval process with allows the Manager, Finance Office, Attorney and any other related party to review contracts before they are signed. Commissioner Hammond reminded the Board of a situation where the County was billed for a service and a contract had not been signed. Chairman James offered his support of retaining the Wooten Company.

Commissioner Bowen stated that he was opposed to paying the Wooten Company when the County is paying the Mid-East Commission for the grant writing service.

Commissioner Shank stated that she would like a report about how the Mid-East Commission has helped Pitt County. The Chairman and Vice Chairman both spoke in praise and support of the work down by the Mid-East Commission for Pitt County.

Chairman James called for a vote. The motion was approved seven to two with Commissioners Owens and Bowen voting in opposition.

Authorization to Execute Documents for Recovery Hurricane Floyd Cost Recovery Efforts - Melanie Bryan

Ms. Bryan explained that this authorization would allow staff to work with FEMA on reimbursement funds.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Gaskins, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Designation of Applicant's Agent form so Chairman James can execute documents.

Detention Center Trespassing Ordinance - Tim Copeland and JoAnne Burgdorff

Mr. Tim Copeland, Detention Center Director, stated that he began working on the need for a trespassing ordinance for the Detention Center three or four months ago. He stated that this ordinance was needed because people were smuggling items into the Detention Center and tossing things over the fence. Mr. Copeland said that the Attorney General's office suggested a county ordinance. He also stated that other counties have already passed the ordinance that was written by our County Attorney. The ordinance will prohibit trespassing within twenty-five feet of the fence and prohibit crossing the fence. In addition, it prohibits depositing anything into the jail facility. He said they have also had trouble with vendors smuggling things like cigarettes into the Detention Center. He also spoke about the "No Smoking Policy" for the Detention Center.

Ms. Burgdorff stated that she wrote the ordinance and researched the matter thoroughly. In addition, she had the Attorney General review the ordinance.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Gaskins, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Detention Center Trespassing Ordinance as follows:

AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT TRESPASSING WITHIN 25 FEET OF ANY FENCED ENCLOSURE AT THE PITT COUNTY DETENTION CENTER TO PREVENT THE CONVEYANCE OF CONTRABAND FORBIDDEN TO INMATES BY JAIL RULES:

WHEREAS, the Board of the County Commissioners of Pitt County, North Carolina is aware of the need for the preservation of peace and safety at the Pitt County Detention Center; and

WHEREAS, the staff at Pitt County Detention Center have documented incidents wherein people have attempted to pass contraband into the Detention Center by throwing items over perimeter fences at the Detention Center; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that special efforts should be taken to curb these practices;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PITT COUNTY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN THAT:

Section 1. Prohibition of trespassing within 25 feet of any fenced enclosure at the Pitt County Detention Center.

It shall be unlawful to trespass within 25 feet of any fenced enclosure at the Pitt County Detention Center marked by a sign that states "UNLAWFUL TO COME WITHIN 25 FEET OF THIS FENCE. STAY BACK."

Section 2. Prohibition of throwing contraband over any fence or into any enclosure of the Pitt County Detention Center.

It shall be unlawful to throw, pass or otherwise deposit any item of contraband forbidden to inmates by jail rules over any fence or into any enclosure of the Pitt County Detention Center.

Section 3. Prohibition of the conveyance of contraband forbidden to inmates by jail rules.

It shall be unlawful for any person to aid, abet, solicit or otherwise participate in any attempt, successful or unsuccessful, to convey, smuggle or otherwise pass any item of contraband forbidden to inmates by jail rules to any inmate held in custody by the Pitt County Sheriff or into any enclosure of the Pitt County Detention Center.

Section 4. Penalty Section.

Any person who violates any provision of this county ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or imprisoned for not more than 30 days.

Adopted and effective the 4th day of October, 1999.

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

CLERK TO THE BOARD

CHAIRMAN

Relocation of Identification Lab and Evidence Storage to Detention Center - Sheriff Manning

Sheriff Manning spoke about the need to store firearms and other items of evidence which do not need to be intermingled near the inmates. He stated that the gymnasium has not been utilized since the facility was built and he would like to use as it for office space and an Identification Lab (ID lab). This would decrease risk and liabilities if this facility was used for this purpose. The ID lab would be a state of the art lab and there would also be growth space for expansion of the Sheriff's Offices. He said that where the current crime lab is located the ventilation is not proper for the chemicals being used. Sheriff Manning gave the Board an estimated cost of \$501,845 to remodel the inside of the gymnasium.

Vice Chairman Savage expressed his support of this proposal stated he had to leave at this time, 12:35 p.m. Mr. Dickerson stated that his staff could do very little of this type of remodeling because this facility has to be inspected by the City and State Department that

oversees and regulates jails. There is no existing heat or air conditioning system in the gymnasium.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously to approve the renovation of the gymnasium at the Detention Center and asked Sheriff Manning to return with the bids for the project when they have been submitted.

Sheriff Manning stated that some of the costs are due to dealing with hazardous materials and this renovation would meet OSHA requirements.

Appointments to the Town of Ayden - Susan Banks

Commissioner Bowen nominated Donald Hardee as an extraterritorial jurisdiction member to the Town of Ayden Planning Board and to reappoint Charles Peele as an ETJ member.

The Board discussed the recommendation of the Ayden Town Board which had been provided. Commissioner Bowen stated that Ms. Margie Hart had been a member on this board for twenty years or more and he felt there should be an opportunity for someone new to serve.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Donald Hardee and to reappoint Charles Peele as extraterritorial jurisdiction members to the Town of Ayden Planning Board.

Appointments to the Pitt County Planning Board - Susan Banks

Ms. Banks presented to the Board two vacancies on the Planning Board, one from District A (1 and 2 combined) and District 4.

Chairman James nominated Bryant Tripp. Commissioner Hammond nominated Sylvia Daniels and spoke on her behalf stating she was a very involved African American and lives in Greenville.

Commissioner Owens motion to close the nominations and accept them by acclamation. Commissioner Hammond seconded the motion and stated that this district was Commissioner Savage's but he was not present to comment. The Board voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Owens nomination. Ms. Banks informed the Board that there is only one vacancy for District A so the Board would need to appoint one individual.

Commissioner James nominated Bryant Tripp and the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Tripp to the Pitt County Planning Board representing District A.

Commissioner Owens nominated Frank Bradham and ask that he be accepted by acclamation. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Frank Bradham to the Pitt County Planning Board representing District 4.

Resolution on Tobacco - Tom Robinson

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously to approve resolution the resolution requesting an extension on filing for assistance by the tobacco farmers.

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the County of Pitt is the leading flue-cured tobacco producing county in the United States producing 11,182 acres in 1999;

Whereas tobacco revenue accounts for approximately 110 million dollars in Pitt County's local economy;

Whereas, communities in Pitt County have been devastated by the flood waters of Hurricane Floyd;

Whereas, due to this flooding, county tobacco growers and allotment holders have not been able to receive mail via the U.S. Postal Service and therefore have not been able obtain necessary documentation related to Phase II of the tobacco settlement between the State of North Carolina and cigarette manufacturers;

Whereas, the flooding of Hurricane Floyd has created a tremendous hardship on tobacco growers and allotment holders in being able to qualify for the Phase II certification deadline of October 15, 1999;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Pitt County Board of County Commissioners, recommends that the Phase II certification deadline be postponed until November 1, 1999.

Adopted this the 4th day of October, 1999.

Eugene James, Chairman

Attest:

Susan J. Banks, Clerk

Commissioners Comments

Chairman James asked the Board to consider meeting in the communities of Grifton, Pactolus, Bethel and Belvoir. The Commissioners discussed the purpose and structure of these proposed meetings. It was suggested that a report be made on behalf of the municipalities to the County Manager concerning the disaster.

Commissioner Owens said that most people think that most of the flooding was north of the river but that Farmville had flooding also and some areas may not have received the benefits that others received. Chairman James expressed that there needed to be one person authorizing and organizing the activities. Commissioner Shank said the Board should look to the staff to see how they would evaluate the emergency plan and how well it went.

Chairman James noted that it had been suggested that the Town Managers and Mayors write a report and send them to the Manager and have the Manager report to the Board. Commissioner Owens said that the purpose of the review should be to improve, not to criticize, then he would support it. Commissioner Ward said that there should be an evaluation of the actual implementation of the Emergency Plan and designate one person to make a report to the Board. Mr. Robinson said the staff will be critiquing how things went including implementation of the plan including pros and cons. Chairman James said the volunteer fire departments should also report.

Closed Session

Ms. Burgdorff stated that the Board needed to go into closed session and cited the following General Statutes: 143-318.11(a)(6) and (1) for a personnel item and approval of closed session minutes.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session.

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

Appointment of the County Tax Assessor

Mr. Robinson stated that the Board needs to appoint a new Tax Assessor to replace Mr. Jimmie Hardee who has retired. The Board discussed the length of term for this appointment and Commissioner Ward noted that this person should be evaluated like others appointed by the Board.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Glenn Cutrell to fill the position of Tax Assessor for a two year term.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board