

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA  
NOVEMBER 15, 1999**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session meeting on Monday, November 15, 1999, at 8:00 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 (arrived later)  
Charles P. Gaskins, Commissioner  
David Hammond, Commissioner (arrived later)  
Thomas H. Johnson, Commissioner  
Mark W. Owens, Jr., Commissioner (arrived later)  
M. Theresa Shank, Commissioner  
Beth B. Ward, Commissioner (arrived later)

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 Vice Chairman Savage.

Pledge led by Commissioner Gaskins.

The regular meeting was rescheduled from 9:00 am to 8:00 am on this date in order to hear the annual audit report.

**Approval of Agenda**

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

**Annual Audit Report**

Mr. Robinson stated this time was scheduled for the Board and public to hear a presentation of the preliminary audit report for fiscal year ending June 30, 1999. Ms. Bryan commented that it was a good year even without taking into account the income from hospital transition. She stated that the fund balance was increased and the departments stayed within their budgets.

Ms. Bryan introduced the auditor, Bryan Starnes, with Martin Starnes and Associates from Hickory, North Carolina. Mr. Starnes stated that the audit flowed very smoothly, and the County was in compliance with State and Federal awards. He said that they moved right through any problems that they incurred. Mr. Starnes noted for the Board's information that the State changed their mental health reporting requirements so this year the Board will receive two reports. The Financial statement and compliance letters with findings relating only to state and federal awards will be presented in a final format to the Board.

Commissioner Owens arrived, 8:15 a.m.

The reports will have two different dates because cost findings were filed last week. One reportable condition relating to Mental Health was in relation to time equivalency accountability. Caseworkers have a block of time charged to individual clients, and there was no system of accountability currently in place. He said they found no evidence of it being recorded incorrectly but that there was no tracking system in place. It has been addressed so there is no questioned cost. The internal control finding for the system needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Ward arrived at this time, 8:20 a.m.

Mr. Starnes stated that time studies are needed and it will be a large task to put this into place. He also said that they may find that it is cost intensive to put into place but it does need to be addressed. He said he does not have that report today.

Mr. Starnes made the following overall comments:

- Report shows positive changes in the fund balance with and without \$15 million from Hospital.
- Fund balance does include payment in lieu of taxes from hospital
- \$33.7 million in the bank
- General Fund revenue - \$89 million
- Total Expenditure - \$88.2 million
- \$37.4 million total general fund expenditures or 45% (on hand to pay for future operations) Funds available for growth, contingency, and economic development. Minimum required 8% in fund balance. Pitt County has 16% in fund balance. Doing very well under new restrictions for investing. Pitt County's investments are twice what this audit firm normally finds in audits and he attributed this to Pitt County having a larger more talented Finance Office staff.

#### Revenues

- 45% ad valorem taxes
- 30% restricted intergovernmental (pass through dollars)
- 17% Other taxes and licenses (sales and use and payment in lieu of taxes)
- Special Census and other items contributed to increase in revenues.

Commissioners Hammond and Bowen arrived at this time, 8:35 a.m.

#### Expenditures

- Almost 90% is Public Safety, Human Services, Education
- 10% it takes to run the county not being spent on citizens. (A dime out of every dollar to run county, impressive sign of management.) Normally see this in small towns. A lot of services being provided for 10 cents on the dollar. Includes all functions under general government.
- 3.5 million increase in 97-98, 98-99 had 5.0 million decrease - attributed to reduction in Mental Health expenditures. Mr. Robinson also noted that there were buildings purchased by the County during 1998.
- General Services of General funds; \$19.8 Million is available for general services.
- Public Health - \$3 million revenue, \$2.5 million lose in operating funds. \$2.4 million public health was expected to be short, it almost operated as planned or a breakeven.
- Social Services – budgeted and expect 50% contribution from the County and was accurate in their predictions.
- \$9.8 in revenues, \$18.5 in expenditures. \$8.3 million was expected to come from general fund.

- Mental Health - \$12.5 in revenue and \$15 million in expense. Almost \$6 million was budgeted from the County with an \$1.8 million. \$700,000 shortage that was consumed by the general fund above what was budgeted. \$2.5 million were used of County funds.
- Enterprise fund – for transfer of trash - Solid Waste area operated in a breakeven status. The Enterprise fund was over budget in expenses but also in revenues.

Questions from the Board:

- Health Dept fund balance - still in positive balance.
- Mental Health - either revenues were below collections or expenditures were more than budgeted, so \$700,000 had to come out of general fund. Ms. Bryan stated that Mental Health minimized the \$1.8 million loss to \$700,000, which came from the County's fund balance.
- Social Services and Health Departments budgets were right on target. Mental Health spent \$700,000 more than anticipated.

Mr. Robinson expressed his appreciation to Mr. Starnes for him and his firm preparing and providing the annual audit on a timely basis.

**RESOLUTION**

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Vice Chairman Savage, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution for Sandra Gaskins, Retired Clerk of Superior Court.

***RESOLUTION***

***HONORING SANDRA GASKINS FOR HER SERVICES AS***

***CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OF PITT COUNTY***

***WHEREAS***, Sandra Gaskins, a native and lifelong resident of Blackjack in Pitt County, and the daughter of Furney and Corabel Gaskins, was hired by the Honorable H.L. Lewis, Jr., Clerk of Superior Court of Pitt County, to the position of Deputy Clerk on February 17, 1969; and

***WHEREAS***, Sandra Gaskins served honestly and with great loyalty and dedication and subsequently was promoted to the position of Assistant Clerk of Superior Court where she continued to serve with great loyalty and distinction; and

***WHEREAS***, upon the untimely death of the Honorable H.L. Lewis, Jr. Sandra Gaskins was appointed Clerk of Superior Court on March 31, 1978, by the Honorable Robert D. Rouse, Jr., Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and was thereafter elected and re-elected by the citizens of Pitt County to serve as Clerk of Superior Court for more than twenty years; and

***WHEREAS***, during the more than thirty years she served as Deputy Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Clerk of Superior Court, Sandra Gaskins has exhibited genuine concern for the citizens of Pitt County, operated her office with great efficiency, always concerned herself with the public good, gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the people's business was administered fairly and evenly to everyone---all of which is attested by the fact that she was retained in office by overwhelming votes of confidence; and

***WHEREAS***, Sandra Gaskins continued to serve the people of Pitt County with dedication and distinction until her retirement on October 31, 1999;

***BE IT NOW THEREFORE RESOLVED***, that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners does hereby express its gratitude and thanks to Sandra Gaskins for her career of dedicated and exemplary service to

*the people of Pitt County as Clerk of Superior Court and honor her with this Resolution of Appreciation given under our hands and the seal of Pitt County, this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1999.*

---

*Eugene James, Chairman*

*Attest:*

---

*Susan J. Banks, CMC  
Clerk to the Board*

Ten Minute Break, 9:10 a.m.

Chairman James called the meeting back to order at 9:20 a.m.

### **PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO THE BOARD**

- Nancy Colville – addressed the Gum Swamp Church property project. She provided a historical overview of how the property had come to be considered by the County. She noted that Chairman Eugene James had also purchased property close to the property the Board of Commissioners had considered purchasing for a firing range. She stated that the Board should have been provided with this information prior to consideration on the property and felt that they had not gone about the decision making process properly.
- Bryant Tripp – resident from north of the Tar River – discussed King George’s attempts to restrict land used by the settlers. He spoke about the Hospital transaction. He expressed that too much money has been spent on consideration of zoning in this county. He also commented on the Board’s consideration of purchasing the property on Gum Swamp Church Road.
- Jane Barnhill – expressed appreciation of the County page which is appearing in the newspaper. She asked that the agenda for board meetings, and a schedule showing of board meetings also be placed on the County page. She questioned where the funds from crop allotments are used when the County purchases farmland
- Dr. Gay Wilentz - Director of Ethnic Studies at East Carolina University - worked with Human Relations Commissions and Councils in the past. She said the ones that worked well were Countywide and feels that this Board should take it seriously as an idea for the whole County. She spoke about how the demographics of this County have changed. She suggested that the County should integrate into the Greenville Human Relations but should support the whole County.
- Vernon Morrison – complained about the County Manager saying that there was no information on anything about the FEMA loans and the people need to know about what is going on. He requested a report from the Finance Office on overtime. He complained about the Meadowbrook Community not receiving the same benefits or media coverage as the Princeville Community.
- Thomas Lynch - General Manager of Expressions Magazine and a television station, student – spoke in support of the Human Relations Council. He stated that minorities contribute a lot to this community but are continually left out of things. He stated that most of the problems are due to ignorance. He stated that the Commissioners should show interest in their communities by forming a Human Relations Council.
- LaTerrie Ward - City of Goldsboro, Community Affairs Director, said that she investigate complaints in public accommodations and works to address concerns of citizens. They assist with neighboring community affairs and their area also incorporates Seymour Johnson. During Hurricane Floyd they assisted all citizens by putting on a forum including FEMA questions, people from the trailerparks, buy-out program, Red Cross, and once this was done FEMA assigned a person to their area. She said they had sixty days to apply originally and

now there is no deadline. She said that they were making sure the people were being served as part of their function.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**UPON MOTION** by commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the October 26, 1999 Board meeting.

### **ITEMS FOR REPORT**

#### **Manager's Report - Tom Robinson**

- Recovery Operations Center is a doublewide trailer located beside the Developmental Services Building. It should be operational the following Monday. The purpose is to house staff that can address developmental activities, need for elevation certificates, buy-out program, and information phone lines are being installed. In addition, the Directors of Human Services have established a Human Services Center on Sixth Street for Social Services, Health, and Mental Health located in a central area to assist people with matters from the Hurricane. Members from the faith community have also been invited. He stated that there has been a \$4.5 million crisis grant received from the State. The two facilities are within walking distance of each other. Commissioner Savage stated that he did not understand this need to consolidate the agencies and was not supportive. Mr. Bulow stated that it is an effort to provide better service for the citizens in need. He also stated that the staff whose job it is to provide regular services to the citizens are being inundated with flood related matters. He said the Human Services Directors think they can serve the public better in a crisis intervention center. Regular staff is being impacted by flood needs so much that they cannot get their normal workload done. Mr. Bulow stated that the purpose for the central location is for people to be able to go to one site where the staff is dealing directly with the flood problems.
- Community Recovery Fair - Mr. Bulow stated that he had been working with the City of Greenville and other agencies to schedule the Community Recovery Fair on December 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and December 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Agricultural Building. The purpose is to bring all agencies together in one location so people can meet with FEMA, SBA, Mental Health, Building Inspections, Emergency Management, Salvation Army and other agencies that were involved in the flooding. Mr. Bulow stated he has received tremendous support and they are trying to make this an uplifting event for the people who were effected by the flooding. It will be educational and will have many recreational opportunities available. There will be people working there to assure that every child that was a flood victim will receive a Christmas present. The Navy will have helicopters and rescue personnel, highway patrol personnel with helicopter, fire departments, Greenville Utilities Commission, Sheriff's Department. He stated it was a good project to provide information to citizens.

Vice Chairman Savage stated that he was not supportive of setting up a one-stop shop for Human Services agencies because the county did not need the additional cost.

Vice Chairman Savage motioned that the staff not set up a separate "one-stop" shop for the Human Services at the 6<sup>th</sup> Street location intended to accommodate flood victims but to continue to use the existing facility. Commissioner Hammond seconded the motion. Commissioner Ward stated that the central location for the Human Services staff to address flood related items sounded much more efficient and not more expensive because the location was already housing Social Services employees. Commissioner Hammond stated that Congressman Clayton had people in the Meadowbrook Area last week which was totally

devastated and is in Greenville. Commissioner Hammond said he heard the black ministers have not been included in this Community Recovery Fair. Mr. Bulow stated that the Black Ministers have been invited to the Community Recovery Fair.

Commissioner Johnson stated his support of the central location for Human Services.

Chairman James called for a vote on the motion offered by Vice Chairman Savage to not establish a one-stop shop for Human Services agencies for services related to flood victims. The motion failed with Vice Chairman Savage in favor of the motion and the remaining commissioners voting in opposition.

Mr. Robinson stated that each week the County has been putting out informational flyers on flood related concerns in addition to what has been placed in the County page of the newspaper. Mr. Robinson stated that he and Mr. Bulow had met with the Black Ministerial Association and that he would welcome other board members contacting him about their concerns. Commissioner Hammond stated that graves that have risen needs to be addressed. He stated that as a funeral home owner he has received numerous phone calls and these vaults that are above ground are creating a problem. He stated that FEMA representatives have said that once they finish in Princeville, that they are leaving and it will be left to the local governments to deal with the situations. Chairman James said that he heard that the homeowner's policy would pay for fixing the graves that have risen above ground.

Mr. Robinson said that there had been \$1.8 billion in funding sources identified for the communities effected by Hurricane Floyd and the flood. He stated that there will be a report given at the December 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting on a preliminary recovery plan and it will match efforts with federal and state governments.

Mr. Robinson reported that Floyd Little, Pitt County Tax Collector, had given earlier indications that he would be retiring but he has asked to postpone that notice until a later date.

### **Capital Improvement Workshop**

Mr. Robinson suggested the Board schedule a Capital Improvement Workshop on December 13 or 15, to review storm items, financing plans, long term capital needs, and other financial items.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Vice Chairman Savage, the Board voted unanimously to meet on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m in the Commissioners' Auditorium.

### **Transportation Report**

Mr. Robinson reported that Collice Moore, member of the North Carolina Board of Transportation has requested to delay his report. He is currently in Raleigh trying to work on some pressing transportation items and would like to come to the next meeting.

Commissioner Bowen expressed his appreciation for the idea of the Community Recovery Fair. Mr. Robinson said that it was from the Homebuilders Association.

### **Transportation Priorities - James Rhodes**

Mr. Rhodes reported that there had been work going on outside of the thoroughfare planning areas. The planning areas coincide with the Greenville and its extraterritorial jurisdiction and the Town of Winterville. The plans have been coordinated with Municipal Planning Organization and North Carolina Department of Transportation. He reviewed the

changes in the Transportation Improvement Program. He said he was not asking for action at this time but would bring it back to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hammond asked if the Department of Transportation had suggested any changes due to the flooding. Mr. Rhodes stated that the priorities have not changed because of flooding but that they look for consistency in the planning priorities. He said they may take a closer look at some of the projects. He informed the Board that the Bethel bypass has been split into two priorities. There are three corridor alignments being considered for the Southwest bypass. Chairman James stated that he had heard that Highway 33 was being altered by the Global Transpark. People that were flooded are concerned about rebuilding. The design work is scheduled for 2001 and right of way acquisition is scheduled for 2003.

**Monthly Financial Report - Melonie Bryan**

Ms. Bryan stated that Mental Health is running in the black this year and commended staff. She gave the following report for the month of October:

**Fund Balance – General Fund** \$37,476,176 (June 30, 1999 – audited)  
 2,731,878 (Unreserved but designated)  
 27,478,826 (Undesignated) 36.5%

**Cash & Investments:**

**Total Budget:** \$145,2774,970 – 33.3 % of the Fiscal Year is Complete

<b>Summary of Revenues:</b>	<u>Oct. 1999</u>	<u>YTD 99-00</u>
General Operating Funds	15,880,337	42,950,823*
Enterprise Fund	429,626	2,503,759
All Other Funds	<u>1,530,113</u>	<u>3,320,262</u>
	\$ 17,840,076	\$ 48,774,844
Percent of Budget:	12.28%	33.57%

<b>Summary of Expenditures:</b>	<u>Oct. 1999</u>	<u>YTD 99-00</u>
General Operating Funds	10,872,981	33,968,183
Enterprise Fund	485,126	1,286,020
All Other Funds	<u>1,128,663</u>	<u>5,311,963</u>
	\$ 12,486,770	\$ 40,566,166
Percent of Budget:	8.59%	27.92%

\*Does not include using any appropriated fund balance

**Tax Releases and Refunds - \$100 or Less**

Total County Releases:	187	\$ 6,140.80
Total City Releases:	121	\$ 4,015.94
Total Tax Refunds:	4	\$ 65.17

Summary of Auction Sale on October 23, 1999

Auction began at 9:00 am and ran until 12:00 noon. The auctioneer was Charles E. Mayo. The number of registered buyers was 124.

Sold 300 Miscellaneous items and equipment	\$	5,059.50
Sold 10 vehicles	\$	18,550.00
TOTAL SALE	\$	23,609.50

### **Tax Collections Report – Floyd Little**

Mr. Little gave the following Summary of 99/2000 Information Summary of 98/99 for Comparison for the month of October, 1999.

### **Tax collection activity Pitt County**

Total October 1999 collections:	\$ 1,269,984	(7.25% difference from 1998)
Total to date 1999/2000:	\$18,685,267	(6.44% difference from 1998)

### **Pitt County Levy:**

Oct 1999 Levy:	\$37,157,735	(-1.20% difference from 1998)
Oct 1999 Percent Collected:	48.21	
Original Levy	48.4	
Supplemental & Vehicle	46.5	

### **Total collection activity all units including Pitt County:**

Total Oct 1999 Collections:	\$ 1,906,934
Total to Date 1999/2000:	\$27,657,092
Garnishments for Oct 1999:	\$ 56,927
Bankruptcy for Oct 1999:	\$ 2,231
Occupancy for Sept 1999	\$ 106,335
Occupancy Total to Date 99/00	\$ 296,267

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Vice Chairman Savage, the Board voted unanimously to ask for a feasibility report for relief of taxes for the people that have lost their homes due to the flooding.

### **Land Use Planning Activities - James Rhodes**

Vice Chairman Savage commended Mr. Rhodes on the information he provided to the Board and his expertise. Mr. Rhodes said that the NC 11 Planning Committee has been meeting and he hoped to get an endorsement of the land use planning for NC 11 Corridor. He said he also hoped to package the land use plan and zoning ordinance together. He shared a map from the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Board. He stated that the Northwest Planning area includes NC 33 Hwy. West, Old River Road, Porter Road, and the US 64 Alternate. This area has a lot of existing development. This area was heavily impacted during the flooding. The eleven member committee will meet the first time to discuss the land use component this Wednesday and they will also be talking about mitigation. Some of these areas will qualify for the buy-out program so they would like to incorporate this area in land use planning and zoning. The meeting will be November 17<sup>th</sup>. He reminded the Board that Commissioner Savage their liaison on this committee.

### **County Page - Arlen Holt**

Mr. Holt informed the Board that per their request from the last meeting he had prepared a report in their agenda. He stated that the County page is appearing each Saturday in **The Daily Reflector** and the size varies based on the information needed to get out to the public. He stated that the budget for the page was \$24,000. The bulk rate of \$7.90 per column inch versus \$10.00 column inch is the fee based on the volume. Commissioner Savage asked if Mr. Holt had looked at sending the Pitt Bulletin to each citizen. Mr. Holt said he had not because of the expense. Vice Chairman Savage said the county does not need to supplement the negative reporting the newspaper does about Pitt County. Chairman James spoke about the County page taking the place of putting small ads in the regular part of the newspaper.

Commissioner Hammond stated that the County will have spent \$1,000 on recovering one vault from the flood. He said Manager and the Public Information Officer need to call the news media to get things out about how this is being handled. Mr. Robinson said that the County page is a way to put everything in one location in the paper. Commissioner Hammond suggested the County page be on the obituary page or areas of their interest.

Commissioner Bowen asked about a bulk rate to send out a newsletter to every citizen twice a month.

Vice Chairman Savage asked about the cablecasting on other cable stations in the county. Mr. Holt said that Falcon Cable will be running the board meetings following today's meeting because he will be hand delivering tapes to them. He stated that there are negotiations going on with Adelphia Communications on their franchise so the tapes will be run in the future. Falcon Cable will adhere to a 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. the day following the meeting and Sunday at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**ITEMS FOR CONSENT**

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

1. The Department of Social Services has received funding allocation for the Head Start Day Care from the Division of Child Development for FY 1999/00. The Head Start Day Care funds have been reduced by \$8,900.

<u>Account No.:</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
165421-531402	Daycare Head Start		8,900
162400-423400	Head Start		8,900

The director of the Division of Child Development has adjusted the Head Start Wrap Around (HSWA) Allocation to allow 4% to be available for Services Support. To do this, the initial HSWA allocation for direct services was reduced.

2. Resolution Endorsing Mid-East Commission – this is a resolution which the Board of Commissioners adopts on an annual basis endorsing the Mid-East Commission as the Lead Regional Organization for counties in the Region Q area. This resolution also releases the share of State funding for the Mid-East Commission.

**RESOLUTION**

**BY**

**PITT COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Lead Regional Organizations have established productive voluntary working relationships with municipalities and counties across North Carolina;

**WHEREAS**, the 1999 General Assembly recognized this relationship through the appropriation of \$990,000 for each year of the biennium to help Lead Regional Organizations assist local governments with grant applications, economic development, community development, and to support local industrial development activities and other activities as deemed appropriate by local governments;

**WHEREAS**, these funds are not intended to be used for payment of member dues or assessments to a Lead Regional Organization or to supplant funds appropriated by the member governments; and

**WHEREAS**, in the event that a request is not made by Pitt County for release of these funds to the Lead Regional Organization, the available funds will revert to the State's general fund; and

**WHEREAS**, in Region Q, funds in the amount of \$55,000 will be used to assist with grant preparation, supplement salaries, fringes, travel and indirect costs for the Planning Department, the Community Development Department, and other departments as needed; and to conduct conferences, seminars or workshops as requested by our localities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County Commissioners requests the release of its share of these funds, \$16,162.48, to the Mid-East Commission at the earliest possible time in accordance with the provisions state law.

Witnessed this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1999 in Pitt County by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

3. Educational Leave for Chris Thompson who has requested to attend Family Treatment Substance Abuse Rehabilitation at East Carolina University. He is taking this course in order to pursue a Master of Science degree in Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Counseling. The course is job related and will help Mr. Thompson will family dynamics associated with substance abuse. His request is consistent with our Education Leave Policy of 3 hours and is proper.

4. North Carolina State Department of Transportation request for additions to the State Maintained Secondary Road System. Requests made are: Duce Drive and Dusk Court in Holly Pine Subdivision, Academy Drive, Terrace Court, Elite Place and Old Well Drive in Country Squire Estates Subdivision, Brandy Creek Drive, Cherry Stone Lane and Bexhill Court in Brandy Creek Subdivision and Redstone Court, Brickyard Court, Brownstone Court in Brickyard Subdivision. Approval is requested on all of these secondary roads.

Ten Minute Break, 10:45 a.m.

**ITEMS FOR DECISION**

## **Interlocal Agreements for Hazard Mitigation Grant/Buy-Out Program - James Rhodes, JoAnne Burgdorff**

Mr. Robinson stated that as part of the buy-out program an interlocal agreement is needed between the County and some of the municipalities which have extraterritorial jurisdictions.

Mr. Rhodes stated they have received 165 applications for the buy-out program and explained how they qualify for the program. There is a FEMA computer model that provides if it is 50% damaged and is in floodplain. They make the assessment and a flyer is put on their door and they fill out an application. There are well over 1000 structures and they have already been over 600 of those structures. It takes a lot of time for this process.

There are 200 structures in the Phase I grant application with homes that are substantially damaged and in the 100-year floodplain. Mr. Rhodes stated that there will probably be more than 200 in that area. Don Harvey will present a priority plan which determines their applicability. He stated that he can ask a FEMA representative to attend the meeting if it is the Board's desire. Chairman James said that if the people are not in the floodplain, then they will not be in the buy-out program. He said that the majority of the flooded people in the Belvoir area are not in the floodplain. Commissioner Hammond stated that FEMA representatives need to stop lying to the citizens. He said that these people do not want to sell their houses. They are being told one thing by one FEMA representative and then someone else tells them differently. Chairman James said these people can rebuild but they need to do it on their own. Mr. Robinson said that the people should go to their municipalities if they are in the municipality or to the County building inspections if they are outside the municipalities.

Mr. Rhodes said that 70% of the houses they are reviewing are substantially damaged. They are looking at 600 houses including houses and mobile homes and only the people in the floodplain will be eligible for the Phase I buy-out program.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign the interlocal agreements.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to ask that the Mid-East Commission work on getting grants for small business for flooded businesses in Pitt County.

Bobby Joyner said that December 14<sup>th</sup> is cut-off date to register for FEMA eligibility and that those loan documents need to be completed even if they are not eligible. Those forms are used to determine eligibility for further assistance. Mr. Robinson said there are three tiers of funding and the paperwork is very important.

## **Debris Removal from Drainage ways - James Rhodes**

Mr. Rhodes presented a contract for removal of debris from drainage ways. This would include creeks located throughout the County as they are maintained by the drainage districts. The County needs to ensure there is an outlet for the drainage ways. At this time, the State has picked up 25% of the funding for clearing the drainage ways. He stated that Tim Etheridge will go over program and the County Attorney has a proclamation regarding this item.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Savage, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign the proclamation authorizing the removal of debris and stabilizing the drainageways, necessitated by the Hurricane Floyd disaster. Chairman James suggested they also look at the Tar River.

**PROCLAMATION IN RESPONSE TO  
A COUNTY STATE OF EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS the County of Pitt has been under a declared State of Emergency which was first issued on September 15, 1999, due to severe flooding within the County; following Hurricane Floyd, and

WHEREAS the County of Pitt was declared a Disaster Area by the President of the United States, and the Governor of North Carolina, and

WHEREAS pursuant to Chapter 166A of the General Statutes and Article 36A, Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, the State and Counties are given authority to assume certain powers as necessary to protect lives or property during a disaster and its aftermath; and

WHEREAS, due to serious and dangerous conditions which endanger the safety of our citizens and threaten further destruction of property make it necessary to authorize county officials, their agents, or assigns to enter onto private property within Pitt County for the limited purpose of removing debris accumulation and stabilizing drainage; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS PROCLAIMED by the Chairman on behalf of the Board of Commissioners that County officials, their agents, or assigns are hereby authorized to enter onto private property within Pitt County for the limited purpose of removing debris accumulation and stabilizing drainage, necessitated by this disaster.

Furthermore, this proclamation shall take effect upon its execution and shall remain in effect for a period of one hundred and eighty days thereafter.

Proclaimed this the 15 day of November, 1999, at 9:00 a.m.

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK TO THE BOARD

Mr. Etheridge stated that some individuals are paying a drainage tax while other individuals have taken care of some of the debris removal in channels themselves. Presently, they are looking for opportunities to do debris removal. No operation and maintenance will be required. The Corp of Engineers is looking at an area in lower Pitt County and they are viewing bodies of water by boat.

A committee was established to look throughout the County at bodies of water. Members of this committee are represented from the Soil & Water Departments, Extension Office and the Planning Department.

**Bell Arthur Water Corporation - Year 2000 Water System - James Rhodes**

James Rhodes state that Bell Arthur Water Corporation has proposed sixty miles of water lines to serve 160 customers located in Ayden, Winterville, Greenville, Falkland and Fountain. Some of these areas overlap one another. This proposal will not be considered at this time because there are still some issues that need to be worked through.

**Tobacco Settlement - Eugene James**

Chairman James stated that the resolution allowed 18% of funding to come from the allotment loss last year. Presently, 25% will be lost this year from tobacco crops. Phase I money is to be used by local governments to replace the money tobacco had originally provided and where the tobacco allotment has been largely impacted.

Commissioner Hammond commended Commissioner Gaskins for his letter to the Commissioner of Agriculture, James A. Graham.

**UPON MOTION** by Vice Chairman Savage, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution:

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**NOVEMBER 15, 1999**

**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 collars in Pitt County's local economy;

**Whereas**, Phase I of the tobacco settlement between cigarette manufacturers and state's attorney generals, has allocated \$2.3 billion to "tobacco dependant communities";

**Whereas**, communities in Pitt County are strongly dependent on tobacco revenue for survival and a standard of living;

**Whereas**, due to significant tobacco quota reductions since 1997 many Pitt County communities are being severely impacted due to reduced income;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners, recommends that Pitt County be foremost to receive Phase I funds from the tobacco settlement between cigarette manufacturers and state's attorney generals.

**Adopted** this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eugene James, Chairman

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan J. Banks, CMC  
Clerk to the Board

**Budget Amendment - Social Services**

Mr. Garrison has made a request for additional temporary staff for the Social Services Department. Commissioner Savage asked that the administrative cost be kept low. Commissioner Hammond stated that he was concerned about the temporary employees not having a job in the end of their contracts.

Commissioner Shank indicated that there was an emergency need in schools for Mental Health such as crisis counselors. Commissioner Savage said its not just school age children that need counseling and that the school system should help facilitate. Commissioner Shank stated that the frustrations are high and they are bringing these frustrations into the schools.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendment.

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
165480-512600	Temporary Salaries	67,054	
165480-518100	FICA Taxes	5,130	
165410-512600	Salaries-Temporary	14,667	
165420-539300	Temporary Labor – Agency	146,520	
165411-552000	Data Processing Equipment	7,400	
165411-538000	MIS Charges	7,100	
165411-532100	Telephones	2,200	
165411-526000	Office Supplies	2,000	
165480-512600	Salaries – Temporary	36,120	
165480-518100	FICA	2,763	
162400-423000	Social Services Administration	241,798	
162900-498010	Interfund Transfer General	50,278	

Mr. Robinson stated that Dr. Mitchell was present and has been in contact with the school system.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Savage, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted unanimously to instruct Dr. Sosne, Dr. Mitchell and County Administration to work together to resolve this situation.

**Hurricane Floyd Governor’s Relief Fund, Second Allocation - Ed Garrison**

Mr. Garrison indicated that the process for Phase II funds would be significantly different from the Phase I funding distribution. Twenty-three people have been assigned to the Unmet Needs Committee, and 19 showed up for first meeting last week and they will be meeting again this afternoon. The application is being revised in order to determine the most severely effected. Two more sites have been added for applications which include Stokes and Pactolus. Schools will distribute the information flyers to every family with school age children. The funding of \$814,178 has been allotted in Phase II.

The allocation process will depend more on a thorough application process. An unmet needs committee will be more actively involved in who actually receives funding. This funding is still not enough to solve the problems and some people will still be unhappy. The process will be as quick and accurate as possible. Reverend Sidney Locke is Chairperson of the Unmet Needs Committee.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Savage, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board unanimously voted to approve the plan for distribution of the second allocation of funds and budget amendment.

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
-------------	------------------	----------	----------

169100-589000	North Carolina Hurricane Relief	814,178
162800-484002	North Carolina Hurricane Relief	814,178

The Governor's fund has collected about \$15 million in contributions only.

The Times and Dates for apply are as follows:

Belvoir - November 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
 Agriculture Center - November 17, 18 and 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
 Grifton – November 17 and 18 from 10:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
 Pictolus – November 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
 Stokes –November 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
 Farmville Community – November 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

They have approximately three weeks to get the money allocated but have asked for a two-week extension and they feel the results should be more satisfying then the last funding.

There is \$4.5 million for a crisis intervention grant. Around \$800,000 is available for flood relief victims. There has been substantial relaxing of the regulations so people can apply and get the money. Mr. Garrison said a full presentation will be made at a later date and they are waiting for the new regulations. They are planning to operate two different programs which consists of; one regular program and one program for people who were impacted by Hurricane Floyd. He said that instead of the 110% impacted are at poverty level. It will impact approximately 150% of the poverty level and will cover more things.

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL – Susan Banks**

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Savage, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the appointees to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Counsel which were Jessie Riggs to replace Faye Bleicher from Mental Health and John Minges as a representative of the business community.

**AMEND APPOINTMENT ON MID-EAST WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD – Susan Banks**

Ms. Banks explained to the Board that Dr. Edgar Boyd had continued to serve on the Mid-East Workforce Development Board. She stated that the Board needed to re-confirm Dr. Robert Waddell's replacement of Dr. Edgar Boyd since Dr. Boyd had retired from Pitt Community College.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted eight to one to approve the appointment of Dr. Robert Waddell to the Mid-East Workforce Development for a term which will expire June 30, 2001. Commissioner Savage opposed the motion.

**Commissioners Comments**

Commissioner Hammond said that there is too much red tape on some of these disaster situations such as the reburying of caskets that have risen. In addition, he added that some of the rulings have not been consistent also.

Commissioner Ward stated that she will have a report about the Airport at the December 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Commissioner Shank indicated she had wanted the information for the tax relief viability report for the next meeting.

Commissioner James wants a report on overtime pay from the disaster work.

Commissioner Bowen stated how disappointed he was with the newspaper headline about the closed session the Board held. He stated that the heading was not consistent with what the article actually reported. He suggested that whoever writes the story should also title the headlines. The headline does not accurately reflect what happened.

Commissioner Savage thanked Eddy Davis for his work with flood victims. He said that the County needs to stay on top of the number of people that are displaced. He also wanted to know how many people have been able to move back into their homes. He has asked staff to determine what needs to be done to help the Town of Grifton get a supermarket reopened.

Commissioner Hammond stated that he does not like the paper insinuating that the County Attorney is not giving proper advice because other attorneys have also substantiated her advice.

### **Closed Session**

Ms. JoAnne Burgdorff cited General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, condition of appointment of a public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee, as the reason for the Board to go into closed session.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session by advise of the County Attorney

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC  
Clerk to the Board