

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA  
DECEMBER 6, 1999**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session meeting on Monday, December 6, 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 offered by Commissioner Ward.

Pledge led by Commissioner Shank.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Robinson stated that he needed to remove the item on tipping fees. Commissioner Bowen asked for a closed session to be added. Commissioner Hammond asked to add an item concerning the proposal of a Human Relations Council.

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

### **Public Addresses to the Board**

**Vernon Morrison's** comments concerned the following:

- Board should consider election of a woman such as Commissioner Ward for Chairman. He stated she has done a good job and knows what she is doing.
- Human Relations Council is a "racial type thing." He stated that the governing agencies should stick with hiring the best person available.

**Keith Cooper** - spoke on value of the senior citizens. He asked the Board to proclaim the second week in May as "Senior Citizens Week in Pitt County." He said this would give the Council on Aging and other groups an opportunity to educate the community about elderly needs and have ceremonies recognizing those citizens. He suggested that they could get the

community businesses to offer discounts during that week. He asked the Board to put this item on today's agenda. He also provided a written endorsement from the Pitt County Council on Aging.

**Rosa Bradley** – owner and operator of Rosa Bradley's Nursing Home. Ms. Bradley spoke about how well Social Services has done with helping others as well as herself. She supports honoring senior citizens.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Banks stated that Ms. Barnhill had requested a change to the November 1<sup>st</sup> minutes. She read the requested change to Page 1 of November 1 minutes as follows: "She stated that the public does not recognize that abstaining from voting is recorded as a "yes" vote and the people need to know this. The County needs consistency throughout its law in this area. "

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Gaskins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 1, 1999 meeting with the requested corrections.

Chairman James called for a ten minutes recess at 9:15 a.m. because he felt all commissioners should be present during the election of the new chairman and Commissioner Savage had not arrived at this time.

Chairman James reconvened the meeting and he recognized the County Attorney to preside over the officer elections.

### **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN - County Attorney**

Commissioner Savage apologized for being late to the meeting. He stated he had just returned from New York where he had spoken at a church and the people present raised \$5,000 on behalf of Pitt County flood victims.

JoAnne Burgdorff opened nominations for Chairman.

Commissioner Savage nominated Charles Gaskins and moved that nominations be closed. Commissioner Hammond seconded the motion. Ms. Burgdorff called for a vote on Commissioner Savage's motion to close nominations. The vote was four to five and the motion failed. Commissioners in favor of the motion were James, Savage, Hammond, and Bowen. Commissioners opposed to the motion were: Ward, Gaskins, Johnson, Shank and Owens.

Nominations for Chairman were remained opened:

Commissioner Ward nominated Commissioner Johnson.

Commissioner Savage again nominated Commissioner Gaskins.

Ms. Burgdorff asked for further nominations. Since there were no further nominations, nominations were closed.

Ms. Burgdorff called for a vote for Commissioner Johnson for Chairman.

Commissioners in favor were Ward, Owens, Shank and Johnson. She called for a vote for Commissioner Gaskins for Chairman. Commissioners in favor were: Savage, James, Bowen, Gaskins and Hammond. Commissioner Gaskins was elected Chairman.

Nominations were opened for Vice Chairman:

Commissioner Shank nominated Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner James nominated Commissioner Hammond.

Ms. Burgdorff called for a vote on the election of the Vice Chairman. Votes for Commissioner Hammond were from Commissioners Hammond, Gaskins, Savage, Bowen, and James. Votes for Commissioner Ward were from Commissioners Shank, Johnson, Owens and Ward. Commissioner Hammond was elected Vice Chairman.

Ms. Burgdorff turned the meeting back over to the new Chairman, Charles Gaskins.

Chairman Gaskins called for a break in order to rearrange the seating.

**Presentation of Resolution of Appreciation for Chairman James**

Mr. Robinson read the Resolution of Appreciation for outgoing Chairman Eugene James.

The Board approved the resolution by consensus.

***RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
HONORING***

***Eugene James***

**THAT WHEREAS**, Eugene James has served faithfully and honorably as Chairman of the Pitt County Board of Commissioners from December 7, 1998 to December 6, 1999; and,

**WHEREAS**, Eugene James has provided the Board of Commissioners with steadfast leadership and guidance during his tenure as Chairman; and,

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Pitt County appreciate the extensive amount of time and dedication exhibited by Eugene James as Chairman of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners desired the Chairman to facilitate in providing quality education, growth management, revenue generation and other initiatives for the citizens of Pitt County, with a balanced budget; including the land use planning and possible zoning in the NC Highway 11 Corridor and the Northwest Corridor; and,

**WHEREAS**, some of the accomplishments of the Board of Commissioners during Eugene James' year as Chairman, include the completion of the Courthouse Addition, the implementation of televising the Board of County Commissioners' meetings; co-hosting participants in the World Special Olympics; assuring Pitt County's successful inclusion in the tobacco settlements as provided by the federal government; transition through the Year 2000 conversion; and the natural disaster of Hurricane Floyd which paralyzed Pitt County with flooding for weeks on end;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners does hereby commend Eugene James for providing determined leadership and diligent service to the Board and to the citizens of Pitt County during his tenure as Chairman.

**ADOPTED** this day, the sixth of December, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
Pitt County Board of Commissioners

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan J. Banks, Clerk

Commissioner James stated that it had been an honor to serve Pitt County as the Board's Chairman and he would continue to strive to do the best for the County. He said he is looking for better things for Pitt County in the years to come and looks forward to working with Charles Gaskins as the new Chairman.

Chairman Gaskins called for a break to have a reception for the outgoing Chairman.

Chairman Gaskins reconvened the meeting at 9:50 a.m. He asked JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney to be the parliamentarian for the board meetings. Ms. Burgdorff stated she would gladly accept this responsibility. Commissioner Savage stated that he had just driven in from New York and asked to be excused. Commissioner James asked to be excused because he had to go to a Farm Bureau meeting, which was out of town.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted eight to one to excuse Commissioners Savage and James from the meeting at this time. Commissioner Owens voted in opposition.

**County Manager's Report**

Mr. Robinson reported as follows:

- Community Recovery Fair was very successful and well received. A large number of people attended the fair. Mr. Bulow reported that the fair was done in conjunction with the City of Greenville and the Pitt County Homebuilders Association. He said there was steady traffic all day. They gave away toys to the children of flood victims. Greenville Parks and Recreation provided many activities for the children. Commissioner Gaskins thanked Mr. Bulow for his efforts with the Community Recovery Fair.
- Pitt County was awarded \$379,000 from a Community Development Block Grant. The original grant was for twelve rehabilitation houses, however, in light of Hurricane Floyd, the State is recommending flexibility in the use of this money. Mr. Rhodes will be talking to the Board further about possible reallocation of the money for storm related activities.
- Reminded commissioners of the Capital Improvement Program Workshop meeting scheduled for December 15, 1999, at 9:00 am.
- Draft of Recovery Plan – reviewed the following presentation:

Pitt County, North Carolina  
**Community Recovery Plan for the Aftermath of Hurricane Floyd**

## Impact Overview

On September 14, 1999, Pitt County and eastern North Carolina were beset by the largest and most significant natural disaster known in recorded history for our community—Hurricane Floyd. This hurricane followed on the heels of two other hurricanes, which when combined dumped over 30 inches of rain in eastern North Carolina in a three-week period of time. This sequence of events caused flooding to reach and exceed “500-year” flood levels. Fifty-two people lost their lives. Estimated total damages are in the billions. An area of eastern North Carolina larger than the combined states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island has been devastated.

In Pitt County alone, over 4,300 households were impacted by this disaster. Six persons lost their lives due to floodwaters within the County. Over 3,000 people were rescued by the coordinated efforts of the Pitt County Sheriff’s Department, Pitt County Emergency Operations Center, and the Military aircraft personnel assigned to the operation. Private citizens assisted the Sheriff’s Department with boat rescues, and numerous others rescued their neighbors and fellow citizens without participating in the organized rescue effort.

Once immediate safety was provided for citizens, Pitt County began the first phase of a recovery effort, with the help of various other agencies, to ensure that all citizens had the basic necessities of life. As time has passed, the County has entered the long-term recovery phase of assisting citizens in coping with the aftermath of this disaster as well as ensuring that resources are provided to allow for an expedient recovery in returning to our pre-disaster state. While understanding that many people will be affected for years because of the magnitude of their loss, Pitt County seeks to establish an environment of hope, assistance, and prosperity that will lessen the hardships endured by scores of its citizens.

The hardships of this natural disaster, coupled with a high rate of poverty and a declining agricultural base, have dealt a one-two-three punch to the County and Region that many communities, farmers, businesses, and individuals will be hard-pressed to recover from without major State and Federal assistance. First, eastern North Carolina leads the state in the percentage of its population that lives in poverty. In Pitt County, one of the most vibrant areas of the East, the poverty rate is 22% compared to 13% for the state as a whole. Secondly, eastern North Carolina’s economy is heavily dependent on agriculture. Both tobacco and hog productions are under attack, and their future is very uncertain. Pitt County, for instance, is the No. 1 tobacco-producing county in the nation. In 1997, farm income in Pitt County exceeded \$170 million. And thirdly, the area has been dealt major flood devastation which in some cases, such as Princeville, has wiped out entire communities. In Pitt County, the following flood damage has been sustained:

Properties Visited With Damage	4,308
Units Uninhabitable	3,375
Temporary Business Closures	150+
Permanent Business Closures	10
Job Losses (1-2 week duration)	20,000
Job Losses (3-5 week duration)	2,000
Job Losses (6 weeks+)	<200

### Damage Estimates

Homes, Mobile Homes, Apartments, Etc.	\$148,876,000
Personal Property	19,375,000
Vehicles (Estimated)	<u>16,125,000</u>
	\$184,376,000

Infrastructure (Tax Exempt)	\$ 66,226,000
Business Losses (Operational)	40,000,000
Business Damages	23,000,000
Agricultural Losses	<u>\$ 96,274,000</u>
 Total Damage Estimates	 <b>\$409,876,000</b>

What will be the tasks of staff and elected leaders and private sector in the coming months and years for Pitt County and eastern North Carolina to recover from this catastrophe? The decisions and actions taken in this critical period will determine the long-term future of the County and will have a tremendous impact on the lives of those directly affected by the storm.

Most of the issues, and tasks will require funds to implement. Fiscal resources will become a significant issue in the coming months as the staff seeks to help the citizens recover from Hurricane Floyd. Some of the unknowns may have monumental consequences in the future. They may include:

- ◆ What level of FEMA reimbursement will the County receive and what will be the gap between actual storm related expenses and reimbursements?
- ◆ What will be the impact on property tax collection rates as a result of people being displaced and the unlikelihood of paying taxes on worthless property?
- ◆ Will sales tax receipts increase as people purchase goods to rebuild their lives?
- ◆ What grants will the County receive to rebuild?
- ◆ Will congressional appropriations to the State of North Carolina allow enough flexibility for funds designated for Pitt County to be used in the most efficient manner?
- ◆ Will the State of North Carolina help eastern North Carolina develop an economic recovery plan and provide resources to achieve major initiatives?
- ◆ What effect will displaced persons have on Year 2000 census?

Major initiatives and actions that will be needed to help Pitt County—and to some extent all of eastern North Carolina—in its recovery effort are:

- Regional Initiatives
- Housing
- Human Services and Public Safety
- Economic Development
- Infrastructure / Transportation
- Land Use Planning
- Agriculture
- Emergency Preparedness and Response

#### Regional Initiatives

Regional cooperation and initiatives will be needed if Pitt County and the other 43 eastern counties are to recover and prosper. Some of the suggested actions are as follows:

- ◆ Work with elected and civic leaders in the adjoining counties, who likewise suffered damages, to provide a united and comprehensive plan to regain regional prosperity. Support projects that might not immediately affect Pitt County, but could help to promote more buying power for the region and thus be a positive for our market economy.
- ◆ Create a regional center to plan and assist local governments with their needs and development.

- ◆ Support regional road projects that will improve our transportation linkages and further enhance our economic power.
- ◆ Enlist support from nearby counties for Pitt County projects that will affect the entire region.
- ◆ Lobby State and Federal legislators to build statewide and national support to rebuild Pitt County and the other affected counties and help the region reach its potential. This region lags behind the rest of the State in economic growth and the poverty levels of the region need to be reduced. We cannot step further back in the economic realm of the State.
- ◆ Plan effectively based upon what we have learned from this episode in the history of the County and strive to use it as a focal point to establish a community with sustainable economic opportunity and growth for all.
- ◆ Implement a national marketing campaign to allay any fears of locating to a potential “flooded” area and to highlight the many positive aspects of the business environment of the County.
- ◆ Work with municipalities, other counties, State and U.S. Census Bureau to obtain accurate Year 2000 census.

### Housing

More houses were destroyed by the flooding after Hurricane Floyd than the total of all new home construction that occurred in eastern North Carolina in 1998. Clearly the counties in the East do not have the capacity to rebuild at once. Major outside assistance is needed. This situation presents personal family predicaments for many citizens who must pay for temporary housing and still make mortgage payments or live with family members in crowded conditions. This situation will amplify many of the human service issues identified. Housing needs are essential to family harmony and to maintain good social structure. The following initiatives illustrate needs still outstanding:

- ◆ Expedite Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (buyout) and seek additional funds to expand the program to areas beyond the flood plain to those residents flooded out. In Pitt County, there were 1,122 substantially (50% or greater) damaged dwellings within the 100-year flood plain and 286 outside the flood plain, totaling 1,408 dwellings. Estimating that approximately one-half of these families will elect the buyout at an estimated average value of \$80,000, funding needed would be \$56,320,000 (704 x \$80,000 = \$56,320,000).
- ◆ Seek State Acquisition & Relocation Funds (gap financing) to cover the cost difference between fair market value of buyout housing and replacement value, estimated to be about \$25,000 per house (704 x \$25,000 = \$17,600,000).
- ◆ Work with developers, non-profit organizations and other units of government in the County to encourage affordable, well-designed subdivisions and planned unit developments (i.e. extension of utilities and partnerships with private sector to set up a foundation for developing housing).

### Human Services and Public Safety

Two of the major purposes for the existence of county government are the provision of human services and protection of the general public. The County’s human service and public safety agencies were severely tested during and after the storm and continue to have great demands placed upon them. Staff performance has been excellent; however, the toll of large workloads and extra duty has impacted morale and efficiency. Many long-term issues face these agencies including increased cases of child abuse, child neglect, domestic violence, and elder abuse. Family members experiencing increased depression and anger will compound the needs. In the schools, there will be an increased demand for counseling. Increased eligibility for crisis programs will impact workloads. There will be more demand for information on health topics such as how to deal with mold, drinking water, etc. The law enforcement and public safety community has and will continue to have increased workloads in their service sectors.

To effectively deal with these issues, staff will need assistance to make the recovery more efficient.

Initiatives include:

- ◆ Addition of extra temporary staff (retired workers, trained workers from other agencies, & new temporary workers).
- ◆ Seeking increased latitude from State and Federal governments to allow increased eligibility, flexibility to redesign programs, and additional grant funding.

#### Economic Development

In the two weeks following Hurricane Floyd, over 150 small businesses in Pitt County were flooded; and many lost all assets. Additionally, most of the manufacturing plants in Pitt County, although not flooded, lost valuable production time due to the inability of workers to cross the flooded areas to return to work. Consequently, many people not only lost their home and all their possessions, they also lost their means to make a living. Assistance is needed in the following areas to regain and enhance the economy and to make economic recovery accessible to all citizens:

- ◆ Expansion of technical assistance through Small Business Center (SBC) at Pitt Community College and Small Business Technology Development Center (SBTDC) at East Carolina University for small business owners to enhance their survivability as they reestablish themselves.
- ◆ Increased funds for subsidized employment to those employers willing to hire and train displaced workers.
- ◆ Funding to establish a technology park in proximity to the Medical Center that would enhance the employment base with good paying jobs (Phase I - \$6 Million). Possible funding sources include: U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (USDOC-EDA) and North Carolina Rural Center.
- ◆ Funding to build additional shell buildings in industrial parks (\$1 Million matching funds). Possible funding sources include: USDOC-EDA, North Carolina Department of Commerce, Industrial Building Fund, and North Carolina Rural Center.
- ◆ Funding to buy land and build infrastructure in existing industrial parks (\$2.5 Million). Possible funding sources include: USDOC-EDA, U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Administration, N. C. Rural Center, and Community Development Block Grants.
- ◆ Funding to develop additional small business incubators (\$1 Million). Possible funding sources include: N. C. Technological Development Authority and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Administration.
- ◆ Elevation of impacted counties by one tier for eligibility of William S. Lee Act job tax credits.
- ◆ Grants to small businesses rather than SBA loans for which many people do not have the capacity to repay (Maximum \$10,000 each x approximately 40 businesses = \$400,000).

#### Infrastructure / Transportation

Essential to the economy is the infrastructure of the County. While many roads and public utilities were damaged and have since been repaired, the flood has highlighted some needs that are essential to the economic welfare of the County. They include:

- ◆ Elevation of an existing bridge and roadway or placement of a new elevated bridge and roadway to provide access across the Tar River in Pitt County during flood stages which is essential for continued delivery of regional medical care.
- ◆ Funding to improve and expand regional air service at Pitt-Greenville Airport to open up more markets and opportunities to the community (i.e. additional carriers, flights).
- ◆ Accelerated funding and construction of the Southwest Bypass around Greenville and Winterville (7.8 miles, TIP ID# R-2250) and Bethel Bypass (3.0 miles, TIP ID# R-218) to create a regional North-South corridor to serve the Global Transpark and regional medical center.

- ◆ Funding to protect the integrity of the electric and water systems within the county and region (i.e. elevation of critical components of water treatment, redundancy of electrical supply, and interconnectivity of systems).

#### Land Use Planning

The impact of Hurricane Floyd has highlighted the need to ensure that good land use planning is achieved in order to prevent the reoccurrence of damage such was incurred with this storm. Land use planning initiatives to be addressed include:

- ◆ Proceed with current land use planning efforts (NC 11 North Corridor Planning Area, Northwest Planning Area, & Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update).
- ◆ Seek additional funding and set aside capital for sewer projects (similar to that used in the Woodridge Project) in order to facilitate development around municipalities (\$5 Million).
- ◆ Develop and implement a countywide mitigation plan to reduce future risk of disasters (i.e. better planning and development standards).
- ◆ Integrate recreational planning with mitigation plan to best use available land, including development of a regional park.
- ◆ Pursue accelerated updates to flood maps.
- ◆ Develop a countywide drainage maintenance plan.
- ◆ Develop a better-coordinated permit review system.
- ◆ Improve inter-agency coordination between the County and municipalities.

#### Agriculture

In Pitt County and in eastern North Carolina, farmers were already suffering economic peril due to the summer drought and declining tobacco prices and quota supports. Pitt County farmers suffered severe damage to crops and structures during the storm. The Extension Service has estimated loss around \$96 million, with a significant portion of this loss in permanent structures. Assistance needed by Pitt County farmers includes:

- ◆ Broad based recovery legislation from State and Federal governments to assist affected farmers.
- ◆ Lobbying of Federal legislators by local officials to impress upon them the importance of helping farmers affected by the storm and reductions in tobacco quota; and further, how these losses will affect the local economy.
- ◆ Development in marketing of alternative crops (i.e. sweet potatoes, hemp).
- ◆ Promotion of better technology for animal waste treatment.
- ◆ Funding for removal of hog waste lagoons from the 100-year flood plain.

#### Emergency Preparedness and Response

Pitt County's Emergency Management system was dramatic in its response to Hurricane Floyd. The cooperation between agencies and the support of many employees working outside the realm of their normal job classification was exceptional. While a lot was achieved in a short period of time, there were some things that were unanticipated and some things could have been done better. Issues identified for further study and improvements are:

- ◆ Improvement of ground to air radio communication ability with military aircraft.
- ◆ Increased emergency shelter supplies to handle the first 48 hours of operation.
- ◆ Equipping emergency shelters to have emergency generator capability (i.e. new school wiring).
- ◆ Better use of computers and GIS system for improved emergency response.

- ◆ Improved communication linkages with radio stations to insure that information provided by commercial radio resources is “official” and not misleading to citizens.
- ◆ Better emergency response equipment to aid in the rescue of citizens until State and National Guard assets arrive. (Military type trucks and some level of access to boats would improve immediate response.)
- ◆ Funding for 800mhz trunked radio communication system that would allow fire, police, and rescue to talk directly to each other, locally and statewide (\$2 Million).
- ◆ Development of an extensive, long-term mutual aid system statewide whereby employees with special skills can assist local governments with needs for those special skills (i.e. inspectors, grant writers, health workers, etc.).
- ◆ Cross-training of additional personnel for backup to key emergency management positions.

Commissioner Shank asked that the personnel needed to implement this plan be addressed at the next meeting and spoke about the Community Development Block Grant. She stated that there were quite a few projects last year that the County or State did not approve for the block grant and would like the Board to review and reconsider adding them to the list of priorities.

### **Department of Transportation Board Update - Collice Moore**

Mr. Collice Moore, with the North Carolina Department Transportation, reported on actions, activities and responsibilities of the Department of Transportation from the effects of the flood. He said it was much worse than expected but was optimistic for recovery. Division Engineer Neal Lassiter and Danny Taylor, District Engineer were present. Mr. Moore explained how the State was divided into fourteen divisions for transportation purposes. Greenville and Pitt County are in Division 2, which includes eight different counties that were the hardest hit by Hurricane Floyd.

Mr. Neal Lassiter spoke about recovery and debris disposal. He noted that as of December 1 there were over 102 sites that were affected by Floyd with a cost \$950,875. Bridges and roads washed out and signal locations were knocked out. He said they were able to get to them as the floodwaters receded. On the debris disposal, they have removed 39,000 cubic yards in the rights-of-way using six contractors. The first contractor was on the scene on September 20. Since then, other debris has been removed and hauled at the cost of approximately in excess of \$700,000. Contracts for Pitt County exceed over \$1 million. Commissioner Ward summarized that the Department of Transportation had removed what was on the roads initially and then came back and removed items that may cause drainage problems. Mr. Lassiter stated that the County may contact their District Office in Washington, North Carolina for more information.

Mr. Danny Taylor gave a short update on the Transportation Improvement Projects. He stated NC 11/13 project will cost approximately \$13 million and has a completion date of September, 2000. They hope to complete it ahead of schedule in June, 2000. He reviewed several projects and noted that the Greene Street Bridge completion is scheduled for December 31, 2002.

Mr. Moore said that the Department of Transportation has 78,000 miles of road in the State and a lot of maintenance money was used in the east during the flooding. He reminded the board members that there are State maintained roads in the city limits of Greenville as well as a combination of city streets and State maintained streets in the Greenville City limits. There is a cross section of jurisdictional powers on some streets within the city.

Commissioner Shank asked about roads leading up to some of the bridges and the terrible flooding prior to the bridge. Mr. Lassiter said they have been looking into some of those situations. He stated that the flooding approaching the Greene Street Bridge was worse than the

actual flooding of the bridge. There will eventually be two one-way bridge structures instead of the current bridge.

Chairman Gaskins thanked Mr. Lassiter, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Moore for coming and bringing the Board up-to-date.

### **Airport Report - Jim Turcotte**

Mr. Turcotte reviewed some history of the creation of the airport for the newest board members and explained their operations. He stated that the airport has a budget of \$1.5 million to \$2 million per year. He said that the airport is maintained with very little outside financial assistance. As for the massive flooding at the airport, Mr. Turcotte stated that they were overwhelmed but were trying to operate business as usual. The recovery phase started immediately and has been successful. The damage sustained included entire buildings, computer equipment and records. They were forced to leave the facilities around 2:30 p.m. on Friday because of the rising Tar River. For ten days the airport was under water and Bank of America allowed the airport to set up temporary offices in their building. Mr. Turcotte stated that the recovery was a \$4.8 million project and they received assistance the last day of the FAA program. He stated that it may be summer before the new assistance program is in place. He stated that they did receive some needed money but it will not cover all the losses.

The Airport was regained on September 27. The power supply had been deactivated so the debris removal and analysis of the damages could take place. The airfield was opened for flights during daylight initially and on October 7 the FAA re-certified the airfield. On November 2, the Airport received \$260,000 in a new grant. The Airport now has a new automated weather station. The runways were checked with specialized equipment. There are sinkholes in ground areas. The airfield lighting system was severely damaged. The buildings were damaged with five of those units being owned by the Airport. There were three commercial aviation operations that will require approximately \$125,000 to repair. Mr. Turcotte stated that 22,000 square feet of the terminal was damaged and it will take around \$750,000 for the Airport main building to be renovated. He said the Airport is looking at \$500,000 in expenses to be brought back to the original condition. Mr. Turcotte stated that FEMA would not participate in the local match. There will be a minimum of \$100,000 loss of revenue from the Airport. He stated that this is a temporary setback and the Airport will emerge better and stronger than ever. With suspension of the Kinston commercial air traffic, they anticipate an increase in air traffic in Greenville. Mr. Turcotte stated that he did not know if they would have to call upon the City and County for financial assistance. Chairman Gaskins and Commissioner Ward thanked Mr. Turcotte for his report. Mr. Bowen asked if Billy Peaden lost his restaurant equipment that he had put in at the Airport. Mr. Turcotte stated that if the equipment was electrical than it was severely damaged. Commissioner Shank asked if the Airport was adequate for the need. Mr. Turcotte stated that he felt the Airport was sufficient for the community's needs. Commissioner Hammond asked about the new runway. Mr. Turcotte stated that the 500-foot runway is being utilized now.

### **ITEMS FOR CONSENT**

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

1. Sheriff Department Budget Amendments

\$1,693.71 – Carry forward funds in the Federal Asset Seizure Fund restricted for use by the Sheriff's Department.

<u>Acct. #</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
225601-528000	Law Enforcement Supplies	1104.38	
225601-551000	Office Furniture & Equipment	548.96	

225601-598024	Fund Transfer	40.37
223601-499100	Fund Balance Appropriation	1693.71

\$7,168.75 – Carry forward funds in the State Excise Tax – Controlled Substance Fund restricted for use by the Sheriff’s Department

<u>Acct. #</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
225602-521200	Uniforms-Employees	66.81	
225602-526000	Office Supplies	215.19	
225602-528000	Law Enforcement Supplies	78.26	
225602-539500	Training Conference	383.96	
225602-539903	Drug Information	700.00	
225602-541200	Building Rent	3380.68	
225602-551000	Office Furniture & Equipment	30.00	
225602-553001	Law Enforcement Equipment	456.03	
225602-553002	Communication Equipment	1472.82	
225602-554000	Motor Vehicles	385.00	
223602-499100	Fund Balance Appropriation	7168.75	

\$546.52 – Interest earnings on grant funds, which have to be used on grant eligible items

<u>Acct. #</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
245605-553002	Communication Equipment	546.52	
243605-449100	Interest Earned	546.52	

United Way - \$100,002 – Pass through grant funding for the United Way Communities that Care Grant. No County funds involved.

<u>Acct. #</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
243605 436106 Rev	Communities That Care Grant	100,002	
245605 560106 Exp	Communities That Care Grant	100,002	

Emergency Management - \$22,374 – Donations for a Fire Safety Training Trailer which will be an asset to the County. Funds received from the Firemen’s Insurance Fund and Fire Training funds. Trailer will be purchased with 100% donations.

<u>Acct. #</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
102800 484000 Rev	Donations/Contributions	22,374	
104330 554000 Exp	Capital Outlay-Vehicles	22,374	

2. Health Department Budget Amendments - \$5,800 – Health Promotion – Due to an increase in the volume of health screenings anticipated at our industrial sites (i.e. NACCO), the projected revenue will increase by \$5,800.00 and the associated costs will increase as outlined in the Budget Amendment request. Additionally the Project ASSIST expenditure line item & DHHS Funds Revenue Line item will each decrease by \$1,248.42 to reflect the unexpected carryover dollars.

<u>Acct. #</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
153152-489000	Miscellaneous Revenue	5,800	
155152-531705	GCA Incentives	2,000	
155152-526000	Office Supplies	900	

155152-539500	Training/Conference	400	
155152-523000	Med Tech	2,500	
155152-560004	Project Assist		1,248.42
153152-436501	DHHS Funds		1,248.42

\$34,993 – Cardiovascular Health – Due to the state's inability to allow the PCHD to carry over these dollars from FY 99 to FY 00 as initially decided, the DHHS revenue Line Item with corresponding expenditure Line items that were previously increased must be decreased.

<u>Acct. #</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
153145-436500	DHHS		34,993
155145-52600	Office Supplies		1,250
155145-53700	Advertising		16,872
155145-52300	Med Tech		16,871

\$5,120.50 – Administration – Donations in the amount of \$5,000 + 120.50 from Glaxo Wellcome & Beaufort Memorial Hospital (Beaufort, SC); respectively, were made to the PCHD to support public health activities.

<u>Acct. #</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
153110-484000	Contributions and Donations	5,120.50	
155110-529901	Contributions and Donations	5,120.50	

3. Budget Amendment – Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Allocation of Funds – has a total of \$17,977 that has to be allocated in 1999 or be returned to the State. The Council solicited applications for use in the community and upon study of those received, the following programs are recommended for additional funds:

Pitt County Juvenile Services Restitution Program	\$3,000
Psychological Services to Assist with Treatment	\$5,500
Adolescent Outreach Services	\$4,477
Pitt County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council	\$5,000

4. Budget Amendment – Social Services

- A. This amendment is to increase the appropriation for Crisis Intervention funds by \$131,295. There are 100% Federal Funds. These funds are in addition to the Floyd CIP Funds that were received and appropriated previously. The Division has also provided additional funds of \$29,368 for administration that may be used immediately to pay for administrative costs and may be used in the future to pay for any increased in administrative costs. The Department is not requesting an increase in administrative expenditures at this time. The funds are available for reimbursement and draw down, if they are needed to fund current and future staff and administrative expenditures.
- B. This amendment is to increase the appropriation for the Adoption Program by \$16,000. The Social Services Department has received a funding authorization for \$16,000 from the NC Division of Social Services to expand the County's Adoption Program. The NC Division of Social Services awarded these funds to the Social Services Department for exceeding the goals set for the Department. These funds must be used to supplement and expand the Department's adoption program. If they are not used in the Adoption program, any unspent funds will be returned to the Division of Social Services. These are 100% State Funds.

- C. This amendment is to increase the appropriation for the Independent Living Program by \$15,000. The Social Services Department has received funding authorization for \$7,500 from the NC Division of Social Services to expand the Department's Independent Living program. These funds require a 50% local match. The Department is reducing funds appropriated for Foster Care to provide the local match.

<u>Acct #</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
162400-423000	Social Services Administration	154,795	
165488-560500	Crisis Intervention	131,295	
165421-	Adoption Subsidy	16,000	
165421-	Independent Living	15,000	
165458-531702	GCA Foster Care		2,500
165454-531501	Foster Care- State		5,000

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES - Tom Robinson**

Tom read the following resolution.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

**Whereas,** Pitt County and eastern North Carolina were beset by the largest and most significant natural disaster known in recorded history of the state in September 1999 – Hurricane Floyd; and

**Whereas,** this storm and its 500 year flooding necessitated the rescuing of over 3,000 people in the County and damaged over 4,300 households; and

**Whereas,** Pitt County Government employees were responsible for overall disaster coordination, rescue and initial shelter and provision; and

**Whereas,** Pitt County Government employees are now responsible for providing recovery assistance including the provision of human services, the removal of storm debris, housing assistance, economic development and recovery including many services outside the normal realm of county services; and

**Whereas,** Pitt County Government employees have shown great devotion to duty including many who have suffered great personal loss; and

**Whereas,** Pitt County Government employees will continue to carry heavy work loads and stress while providing first quality customer service to citizens recovering from the storm for the considerable future;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Pitt that it recognizes and appreciates the dedication and hard work of its employees in performing their duties and many times going well beyond the call of duty to help County residents with this crisis and major devastation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners wishes to further express their appreciation by recognizing the need for rest and recovery of its employees by granting a third day of holiday leave on December 23, 1999 for County employees.

**ADOPTED** this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1999.

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Charles P. Gaskins, Chairman

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Susan J. Banks, CMC  
Clerk to the Board

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Shank, to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for County Employees. Commissioner Bowen stated that he could not understand why the Board could not find another way to thank the employees other than by taking a day of service away from the citizens.

Commissioner Hammond said he was concerned about something being in the paper that the Board unanimously approved when the Board has not voted on the item. He stated that he supports the resolution but does not support telephone polling the Board. Mr. Robinson said he polled the Board and he talked with each of the commissioners and that it was not a vote of the Board in a meeting. Commissioner Hammond asked how much the extra day off would cost the County? Mr. Robinson stated that it would not cost the County anything since the employees would be paid anyway. He said it was usually a low productivity day because of the time of year and should not affect services.

The following Commissioners voted in favor of the motion: Owens, Ward, Gaskins, Hammond, James, Johnson, Shank and Savage. Commissioner Bowen opposed motion.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS – Melonie Bryan**

Ms. Bryan stated that two of the budget amendments for fund balance may not be reimbursed through FEMA but they are looking for mitigation. Unfortunately, there are no guarantees. She said they have requested from FEMA \$2.3 million and have almost \$5 million in project worksheets. Ms. Bryan said that the Consultant with KPMG has been most beneficial but their cost is about \$8,500 and their contract needs to extend to another \$10,000 for the best utilization of their services. FEMA has given \$61,000 in administrative costs.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Board voted unanimously to approve the extension of the contract with the KPMG for another \$10,000 and approved the budget amendments for Inspections and Solid Waste as follows:

**ENGINEERING**

<b>ACCOUNT NO.</b>	<b>TITLE OF ACCOUNT</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>DECREASE</b>
102900 499100 Rev	Fund Balance Approp.	200,000	
104930 561000 Exp	Elevation Certificates Contract	200,000	

**SOLID WASTE**

<b>ACCOUNT NO.</b>	<b>TITLE OF ACCOUNT</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>DECREASE</b>
602300 432021 Rev	FEMA	2,308,726	
609100 531000 Exp	Hurricane Debris Removal	2,108,726	
609100 589000 Exp	Hurricane Floyd Costs	200,000	

**Hauling and Disposal Non-Vegetative Debris Service - Phil Dickerson**

Mr. Dickerson stated that he wanted to award the bid to remove debris. The bids had been received and they have been put on hold waiting for award of the bid. Commissioner Hammond asked if the County could use a local company. Mr. Dickerson said it would jeopardize FEMA reimbursement if the County did not go with the low bidder. Commissioner Hammond asked about postponing this item for further consideration. Mr. Dickerson stated that the debris is beginning to stink and the lowest bid contractor already has some of the County's business.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted eight to one to award the contract to the lowest bidder. Commissioner Hammond opposed the motion.

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<b>COUNTY OF PITT HAULING AND DISPOSAL NON-VEGETATIVE DEBRIS SERVICE HURRICANTE FLOYD BID TABULATION</b>	
<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
David Mitchell Cons. Co. Fort Payne, Alabama	\$629,280.00
L. J. Inc. Columbia, South Carolina	717,680.00
Ceres Environmental Brooklyn Park, Minnesota	693,280.00
D & J Enterprises Greenville, North Carolina	666,250.00
Best Sand & Gravel Goldsboro, North Carolina	773,520.00
Atwell Construction Co. Tarboro, North Carolina	1,129,000.00
Ralph Hodge Cons. Co. Wilson, North Carolina	677,500.00
SRS Charlotte, North Carolina	910,560.00
EJE Recycling & Disposal Greenville, North Carolina	642,720.00
DRC, Inc. Mobile, Alabama	710,080.00
Waste Industries of Wilson Wilson, North Carolina	734,150.00

J & N Land & Timber Four Oaks, North Carolina	1,318,000.00
Guy Shavender Trucking Pantego, North Carolina	No Bid Bond

**Priority Plan for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - James Rhodes**

Mr. Rhodes explained the guidelines set forth for the Hazard Mitigation Grant program for facilitation of the housing buy-program. Mr. Don Harvey and Bucky Moore with the Wooten Company were present. Todd Owen and Steve Davis with Emergency Management were also present.

Mr. Rhodes reported that to date the Planning Department has assessed 1,100 homes in Pitt County to determine the amount of damage in each structure. They are close to 1,200 being totally completed. They will then feed this information into the FEMA model that determines substantial damage. He showed an illustration on the Stokes Road site near the Belvoir area where homes had five feet of water in them. The requirements for the elevation certificates are also entered into the database. The buy-out program is completely voluntary and the people who have applied are seeking to build or repair. There are already 200 homes in the first application. He stated that the CDBG program would be presented at the next meeting.



Mr. Harvey reviewed the seven steps of priority as noted in the resolution.

Commissioner Owens asked how it would be determined whether or not a home had five feet of water in it. Mr. Harvey said it would be done several ways including inspectors reviewing the completed applications of individuals and visual signs of how high the water came up which the inspectors would review. Mr. Rhodes said that this information is coming from inspectors out in the field.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Resolution adopting Prioritization Plan for Voluntary Acquisition Activities, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pitt County, North Carolina.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING  
PRIORITIZATION PLAN FOR VOLUNTARY ACQUISITION ACTIVITIES  
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)  
PITT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**WHEREAS**, Pitt County intends to apply for HMGP funds to conduct a voluntary property acquisition program, to remove households from the threat of flooding which endangers health and safety and:

**WHEREAS**, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act that requires that each HMGP project be cost-effective (see U.S.C.517c) and;

**WHEREAS**, it is the finding of the State and Pitt County that exposure to future flooding is directly related to cost-effectiveness.

**THEREFORE**, Pitt County has established the following method to prioritize property owners who have applied to participate in the proposed voluntary HMGP acquisition program in the County.

**METHODOLOGY**

Each structure will be inspected and analyzed for percentage of substantial damage by using Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved procedures, located on the flood maps and flood depth determined. At this time each structure will be placed in the proper prioritized category stated below:

1. Located in the 100-year floodplain, substantially damaged (greater than or equal to 50%) and greater than or equal to 5-feet of floodwater inundation, prioritized by percentage of substantial damage.
2. Located in the 100-year floodplain, substantially damaged (greater than or equal to 50%) and less than 5-feet of floodwater inundation, prioritized by percentage of substantial damage.
3. Located in the 100-year floodplain with greater than or equal to 5-feet of floodwater inundation, prioritized by depth of floodwater inundation.
4. Located in the 100-year floodplain contiguous to a property prioritized above and moderately damaged (less than 50%), prioritized by percentage of substantial damage.
5. Located outside the 100-year floodplain and substantially damaged (greater than or equal to 50%), prioritized by percentage of substantial damage.
6. Located in the 100-year floodplain and moderately damaged (less than 50%), prioritized by percentage of substantial damage.
7. Vacant lots located contiguous to a buyout property prioritized above.

Should the above methodology result in a tie within each and any category, tie-breaking criteria will be utilized. Tie-breaking criteria is available from survey data. The tie-breaking criteria are as follows:

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Structure has received repetitive damage by flooding       | 15 points |
| 2. Owner occupied   | 10 points |
| 3. Structure built prior to 1983 (date of original FIRM maps) | 5 points  |

Acquisition offers will be made in chronological order based upon priority ranking. Property owners will have thirty (30) days to accept or reject an offer. If the property owner does not respond within thirty (30) days, funds will no longer be reserved for their acquisition and the offer will be invalid. Offers will be made until available funds are exhausted.

Adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 1999 by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners.

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Chairman

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Clerk to the Board

Mr. Rhodes stated that an additional \$600,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds may be applied for by the County. The schedule for application deadlines is steadily approaching. Mr. Rhodes said there would be more applications countywide for the mitigation plan coming in for consideration. He stated that more information would be coming forth at the next meeting. He also indicated that the February 29<sup>th</sup> State deadline had not yet been extended.

**Furniture Bid for Courthouse - Phil Dickerson**

Mr. Dickerson stated that the specifications for the furniture at the new courthouse had been done and advertised for thirty days and only one bid was received. The bid was from MacThrift Office Furniture for \$292,639.50. He recommended the contract be awarded to MacThrift Office Furniture as the lowest bidder.

Commissioner Owens asked why the County did not receive more than one bid. Mr. Dickerson stated that the other companies expressed that they could not bid competitively on this furniture.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted to award the bid to the low bidder, MacThrift Office Furniture.

Mr. Dickerson said that he was targeting the date of February 1<sup>st</sup> to do something for the opening of the courthouse. Commissioner Owens said the courthouse opened too soon because it was not completed.

**Resolution requesting extension of FEMA & SBA application deadlines - JoAnne Burgdorff**

Mr. Robinson stated that FEMA had informed county officials that the number of applicants is lower than expected. He stated that some people do not understand the application process and they need more time to complete these applications. Mr. Robinson said that the other counties in eastern North Carolina were also asking for an extension.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution requesting an extension of the FEMA & SBA applications deadline.

*RESOLUTION*  
***REQUESTING EXTENSION OF FEMA AND SBA  
APPLICATION DEADLINES***

*WHEREAS, eastern North Carolina has experienced the largest and most significant natural disaster known in recorded history of the state –Hurricane Floyd; and*

*WHEREAS, Hurricane Floyd has damaged or destroyed over 17,000 homes totaling over \$400,000,000; and*

*WHEREAS, people with damages continue to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance; and*

*WHEREAS, people must also apply to the Small Business Administration for loan assistance and eligibility determination for individual and family grants assistance; and*

*WHEREAS, applications for Small Business Administration loans have been lower than expected; and*

*WHEREAS, many persons have expressed confusion about the need to complete a Small Business Administration loan or have indicated difficulty in completion of paperwork;*

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners requests the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management to seek extensions of the application deadlines for individual Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance and for Small Business Administration loans from December 14, 1999 to March 14, 2000;

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that the Board of Commissioners requests other counties effected by Hurricane Floyd to support this request for extensions of those two federal programs deadlines.

***ADOPTED*** this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 1999.

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Pitt County Board of Commissioners

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Susan Bank, CMC  
Clerk to the Board

### **Consideration of Human Relations Council - David Hammond**

Commissioner Hammond stated that he had looked at other counties and municipalities and their Human Relations Councils. He stated that 60% of the residents of Pitt County live in the City of Greenville. He stated that he had listened to people express how a council has worked well in their area and he wanted to go on record formally requesting the Board of County Commissioners create a Human Relations Council for Pitt County.

Commissioner Ward asked to discuss this item at a workshop where they would have more time. She said that each municipality has their own council. She said the Board does not have the time or proper information right now to make a decision, but would support adding it to a workshop meeting. Commissioner Shank expressed her support for a Human Relations Council and suggested a committee of staff and commissioners be established to work on a set of by-laws and the purpose and function of a Human Relations Council.

Commissioner Hammond said that the County Human Relations Council would not interrupt any of the municipalities operations and would like the Board to formally support the concept. Commissioner Bowen asked if this council would have supreme authority and if the other councils in the County would sign off on the County's council being the supreme authority.

Commissioner Hammond said that this council is not about racism and that this is a misconception. A Human Relations Council would offer suggestions that would foster better communications, help for displaced families, homelessness, etc. He stated that it is not a civil rights group.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted unanimously to formulate a Pitt County Human Relations Council.

Commissioner Bowen suggested they form a committee that would look into it and have Commissioner Hammond chair this committee. Commissioner Shank suggested that some staff be included on this committee.

Commissioner Hammond said that in speaking with Mayor House and some others, that the County should first get the information from the municipalities and incorporate those municipal officials in this process. Commissioner Bowen suggested the chairman of the committee to work on the Human Relations Council appoint the committee, work out some ground rules, and let staff look at the by-laws for legality. Commissioner Shank stated that the County Attorney had previously done extensive research on this matter and she suggested the committee would need staff support.

Commissioner Gaskins appointed Commissioner Hammond as Chairman of the committee and asked him to assign the other members of the committee.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Commissioner Ward stated that Commissioner Owens and his wife are going to be the Grand Marshall in the Farmville Christmas Parade.

Commissioner Hammond thanked Dr. Russell for his efforts in the diversity among the administrative staff at Pitt Community College and said that he hoped all county departments would follow his lead.

Commissioner Shank announced that she had been asked to serve on the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and attended the first meeting last week.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session to discuss a personnel item as allowed by G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

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

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC  
Clerk to the Board