

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 13, 1999**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a special called meeting on Monday, December 13, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, Greenville, North Carolina with the following commissioners present:

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

Also present were:

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
Phil Dickerson, County Engineer
Bucky Moore, Wooten Company
Ron Dunn, Inspector
Joel Scales, Solid Waste

Absent:

Thomas B. Robinson, County Manager

Call to Order and Welcome by Chairman Gaskins.

Prayer by Commissioner Savage.

Pledge led by Commissioner Bowen.

Mr. Gaskins stated that the Manager was in Raleigh at the request of the Governor to talk to the General Assembly. Mr. Bulow will be taking Mr. Robinson's place in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bulow stated that Mr. Robinson asked to add to the agenda the request to pursue an Eastern North Carolina Task Force to develop a comprehensive Hurricane Recovery Plan and cancellation of December 15th workshop meeting. The meeting was to be cancelled because some commissioners will be asked to travel to Raleigh to the special session of the Legislature in Disaster Recovery.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, for the Board to seek the Governor and/or General Assembly's appointment of a task force with funding coming from private and/or foundation services and further to seek other eastern North Carolina County, Municipality, and Private sector endorsements.

Mr. Bulow suggested the meeting proceed as stated on the agenda and approve the agenda before moving on with other matters.

Commissioner James withdrew his motion to approve the request for the task force so the agenda could first be approved.

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

Commissioner Hammond commended Commissioner Savage for his successful trip to New York City to inform people about the flood and victims and for getting additional funding for the flood victims' relief. Commissioner Hammond stated that on Wednesday, people from Cornerstone Church were going to Raleigh to help inform the General Assembly what bad shape the people here are in from the flood.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Savage, seconded by Commissioner Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to seek the Governor and/or General Assembly's appointment of a task force with funding coming from private and/or foundation services and further to seek other eastern North Carolina County, Municipality, and Private sector endorsements.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Savage, seconded by Commissioner James, to cancel the meeting on Wednesday, December 15th so the commissioners can travel to Raleigh during the special session of the Legislature to discuss additional funding needs to assist with the flood victims recovery.

Commissioner Shank said the Commissioners need to determine what the purpose is for the trip to Raleigh because the legislators already know the eastern region needs money. Mr. Bulow explained the need to address the Governor and the attempt for the counties in the eastern region to work together in a joint effort to convince Legislators across the State of financial needs in the East. Commissioner Hammond stated that there is always a need to encourage the Legislators and maybe the commissioners can be more persuasive about the needs in Pitt County. Mr. Bulow corrected statements that had been made about a meeting on Friday, stating that it was not a Board meeting but that staff met with some legislators and discussed needs that they felt needed to be addressed by the General Assembly. The legislators had suggested that Pitt County take a delegation to Raleigh and explain to legislators from other parts of the State about the problems being faced in Pitt County. Bobby Joyner suggested that some of the people that volunteered from other counties and states be contacted and those people should be invited to supply first hand information to the legislators from their areas of the State.

Commissioner Hammond said he was asked by Mr. Robinson to supply a list of the black churches that have helped out with the flood efforts.

Mrs. Burgdorff said that they would be taking a brief outline of what funding was needed for the citizens to get back in to homes. She spoke about additional funds being needed for the buy-out program and if the County does not get the rest of the needed funding for the buy-out program then the program may not be successful.

Commissioner Shank asked who would be going to Raleigh on Wednesday. Mrs. Burgdorff encouraged all of the commissioners to attend the meeting in Raleigh. Commissioner James said they need to talk to the people from the western part of the State.

Commissioner Savage called for the question on the motion to cancel the meeting on Wednesday. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

CLOSED SESSION

County Attorney JoAnne Burgdorff, stated that the Board needs to move into closed session to conduct business under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel representing the public body.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session based on General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3).

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner James, the Board voted eight to one to approve the motion to return to open session. Commissioner Savage voted in opposition to the motion.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board