

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
JANUARY 14, 2000**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a special called meeting on Friday, January 14, 2000, at 12:30 p.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
M. Theresa Shank, Commissioner
Beth B. Ward, Commissioner

Absent:

Mark W. Owens, Jr., Commissioner

Other:

Commissioner Jeffrey E. Savage (not present, resigned)

Also present were:

Thomas B. Robinson, County Manager
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney
Susan J. Banks, Clerk to the Board
Melonie T. Bryan, Director of Financial Services

Chairman Gaskins called the meeting to order.

Commissioner James gave the invocation.

Commissioner Shank led in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Gaskins called for approval of the agenda.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner James, seconded by Vice Chairman Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Chairman asked the Clerk to read the letter of resignation as received by Commissioner Jeffrey E. Savage as follows:

Mr. Chairman:

For the record, let it be known that it has been a high honor for me to serve the people of Pitt County. The privilege voters of District A granted me in 1992 was a humbling experience and I shall always have cherished memories of their support.

I am proud of my accomplishments as a county commissioner. The county is effectively meeting the needs of its citizens, is financially strong and has a very promising future.

However, I respectfully request that you announce to all concerned that as of January 11, 2000, I officially retire from elective office. Furthermore, I request that this written announcement be included in the official minutes of the Pitt County Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey E. Savage
Commissioner-District A
Pitt County, NC

UPON MOTION by Vice Chairman Hammond to have the letter of announcement put in the official minutes and for the Board to accept his resignation from the Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner James. Commissioner Bowen offered an amendment to have a resolution thanking the commissioner for his years of service. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Gaskins asked the Board when they would like to meet again to consider filling the District A seat. Vice Chairman Hammond said the Democratic Party is scheduled to meet Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and in the meantime, Districts 1 and 2 are still fully represented on this Board. Vice Chairman Hammond said he saw no need to be in a rush to fill the seat and should wait to meet until the Democratic Party makes a recommendation. He also stated that he feels the Board should accept their recommendation. He suggested they consider the appointment at the regular meeting on January 24.

Commissioner Ward said she hoped the Board would receive the Party's recommendation before the 24th of January so the person could be appointed and consider filing for the seat before the February deadline. Vice Chairman Hammond said three candidates have already filed which were Billy Peaden, Ann Huggins and Rev. Randy Royal. Commissioner Shank said she would not be at the meeting on the 24th but she will be available to meet Tuesday morning January 18th or Monday, January 31st. Vice Chairman Hammond stated that since the filing period does not close until February that there is no need for the board to rush into this matter. The Board members continued to discuss this matter about whether to wait to schedule a meeting to make the appointment to the District A seat or move forward with the action.

Ms. Burgdorff advised that it is a Board decision but it would be presumptuous to schedule a meeting to make the appointment unless the Board was assured that they would have the recommendation of the Democratic Party by that time. Commissioner Shank noted that if the Board has not made the appointment within two months then the Clerk of Court makes the appointment. Chairman Gaskins suggested the Board wait until the Democratic Party makes its recommendation.

Mr. Robinson reminded the Board that proper public notice needs to be given if there is a called meeting. Commissioner James said the representative will have to come from Districts 1 and 2 and hoped that this Board would listen to him and Vice Chairman Hammond since they represent the same areas. Vice Chairman Hammond said people in these districts have representation.

UPON MOTION by Vice Chairman Hammond, seconded by Commissioner James, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board

