

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
JANUARY 18, 2000**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a special called meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2000, 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
M. Theresa Shank, Commissioner
Beth B. Ward, Commissioner

Other:

Commissioner Jeffrey E. Savage (not present, resigned 1/11/00)

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
John K. Bulow, Assistant Manager
Arlen Holt, Public Information Officer

Chairman Gaskins called the meeting to order.

Commissioner James gave the invocation.

Commissioner Bowen led in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Gaskins welcomed everyone and stated the purpose of the meeting was to hear from the Democratic Party.

UPON MOTION by Vice Chairman Hammond, seconded by Commissioner James, the Board voted unanimously for approval of the agenda as presented.

Dr. Jim Young, Chairman of the Pitt County Democratic Party addressed the Board with the recommendation of the Democratic Party. The Executive Committee met Saturday at Pitt Community College the one item on the agenda was to choose an individual to fill the current vacancy in County Commissioner District A. Dr. Young read the following letter:

January 16, 2000

Mr. Charles Gaskins, Chairman
Pitt County Board of Commissioners
1717 W. Fifth Street
Greenville, NC 27834

Dear Chairman Gaskins,

This is to inform you that the executive Committee of the Pitt County Democratic Party met on Saturday, January 15, 2000. At this meeting, the committee selected Mrs. Ann Huggins of 1500 Spruce Street, Greenville, North Carolina as the Democratic Party's recommendation to fill the unexpired term of Jeffrey Savage in County Commission District A.

Mrs. Huggins has been an active and outstanding leader in our community and in the Democratic Party for many years. I am pleased, on behalf of the Pitt County Democratic Party, to commend her to the consideration of the Pitt County Board of Commissioners for this appointment.

Respectfully,

Jim Young, Chairman
Pitt County
Democratic Party

Cc: Susan Banks, Clerk
Ann Huggins

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Shank, to accept the recommendation of the Democratic Party and appoint Ann Huggins to fill the unexpired county commissioner term in District A. The motion failed with a four to four vote.

Votes for the motion were: Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Shank, and Chairman Gaskins. Votes opposed to the motion were: Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Bowen, Commissioner Hammond and Commissioner James.

Vice Chairman Hammond spoke about Randy Royal and that he also understands the Democratic Party's recommendation but that choosing someone to represent District A, which is also Districts 1 and 2.

UPON MOTION by Vice Chairman Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, to have the Board hold off on filling the vacant District A seat until the primary is held in May and that whoever wins would be appointed to fill the vacancy.

Commissioner Ward said she also understands the position of Vice Chairman Hammond but it would behoove this Board to have representation in this District A seat between now and May. She stated that all commissioners are elected by district but they still represent the entire County and when decisions are made they should look out for the whole County. She said she did not see the purpose in delaying this action.

Mr. Robinson said that the North Carolina General Statute states that the Board of Commissioners have sixty 60 days to fill this vacancy and if it is not filled within that timeframe then the Clerk of Superior Court is obligated to appoint someone to that seat.

Commissioner Owens said its good that people will volunteer to fill this vacancy but that there is such a division within the Board itself on important and non-important matters and that this action would further support that division. He stated that he prefers a new member to come in without an agenda and not be supportive of this currently existing division. Commissioner Owens said that in his own judgment, it would create more division for the Board to move today on this appointment.

Commissioner James agreed with Commissioner Owens. He stated that the Board members should listen to Vice Chairman Hammond and himself on this matter. He said that

they represent those people in that district and know what they want. He said it is a big area and his people will push hard for someone from north of the river. He said that people from his area feel that there is a dividing point in how the Pitt County citizens are served in this area such as funding in schools, education and everything else. He said it is the right decision to delay this appointment today. He agreed with Vice Chairman Hammond in that the Board should appoint the person that wins in the May primary election.

UPON MOTION by Vice Chairman Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Bowen, to not do anything until a person wins the primary and then appoint them to the District A seat. The motion passed with a five to three vote.

Votes in favor of the motion were: Commissioner Bowen, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner James, Vice Chairman Hammond, and Chairman Gaskins. Votes opposed to the motion were: Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Shank, and Commissioner Johnson.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Vice Chairman Hammond, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board