

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2001**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, February 19, 2001, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Greenville, North Carolina. The purpose of the meeting was to consider public business.

David Hammond, Chairman  
Glenn Bowen, Vice Chairman  
Tom Coulson, Commissioner  
Eugene James, Commissioner  
Thomas H. Johnson, Commissioner  
Mark W. Owens, Jr., Commissioner  
Randy Royal, Commissioner  
M. Theresa Shank, Commissioner  
Beth B. Ward, Commissioner

Staff present were:

Thomas B. Robinson, County Manager  
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney  
Susan J. Banks, Clerk to the Board  
Arlen Holt, PIO and Cable Coordinator  
Melonie Bryan, Director of Financial Services  
John K. Bulow, Assistant County Manager

**CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Hammond**

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Commissioner Royal offered the invocation.

Commissioner Johnson led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chairman Hammond**

Mr. Robinson said that Ms. Hardee has requested approval of a piece of legislation to be added for discussion and decision during the Board of Elections budget amendment. Vice Chairman Bowen asked to add a discussion on the Board meeting dates.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Coulson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

**PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO THE BOARD**

? Nancy Colville - spoke about the makeup of the Board of Adjustment. She said the advertisement did not specify who could serve and there was no mention of the alternates and what area they may come from was not addressed. She addressed her concerns about certain applicants. She also spoke on the tax revaluation and that this is a way to raise taxes

through the back door. She said she is not comfortable with a proposed four-year revaluation.

- ? Jane Barnhill – spoke about the minutes of the NW Planning Workshop and if it was a continuation of the day meeting. She asked why it's not in county business and questioned procedures on workshop minutes stating they were the public record of peoples' business. She said she had heard that some of the people are concerned about tax revaluation. She spoke about zoning and other matters.
- ? Mary Holland, representing the League of Women Voters - spoke about land use planning. They support and commend the Board on land use planning. She said that they believe wise decisions are made through land use planning. She spoke about the effects of people coming into this County and its growth. Expansion in programs and ECU and other significant changes indicate that some planning needs to be done. She commended the Board on zoning in the Belvoir area and requested the Board continue the process they have begun.
- ? Willie Wallace - spoke about the zoning ordinance. He has private lots in the Northwest area. It was zoned as a subdivision. He rents lots and there are double-wide mobile homes and he's told that he will not be able to rent these lots because it has been zoned for a subdivision. He addressed comments that Commissioner James and Chairman Hammond had made about the zoning. He said he will be forced to sale his property if he cannot rent the lots. He spoke about the nominees on the Board of Adjustments.
- ? Kenneth Lloyd - said he owns land and does development in Pitt County. He said he's upset because of the requirement to put brick underpinning on mobile homes because it is more expensive than the vinyl underpinning. He said people haven't spoken to the Board because they heard that the zoning was a done deal. He said he would have been better off if he had kept his land and not sold for subdivisions. He said he had presented applications this morning of qualified people to serve on the Board of Adjustment.

## ITEMS FOR REPORT

### Manager's Report – Tom Robinson

#### ? Board Meetings Schedule

\*Friday, February 23, 8:30 a.m., in EOC, Goals Setting continued - He stated that the agenda was passed out to the Board this morning for their review prior to Friday's meeting.

\*Tuesday, March 20, 5:30 p.m., Auditorium, Regular meeting (one meeting). Mr. Robinson said that the Board may wish to reconsider this date. He informed the Board that several items had been handed out this morning.

1. State County Criminal Justice Partnership Committee listing
2. Board of Adjustment applicant listing updated as of Friday. He stated that he has talked with Mr. Rhodes and the Board may not need to give staff further direction on the alternate positions today. Mr. Robinson recommended the Board delay appointment of members to the Board of Adjustment until a later meeting. Commissioner James said he would be out of town from March 13-22. He said he would encourage the Board to delay the appointment of the Board of Adjustment. Vice Chairman Bowen asked what would happen to people who have requests for the Northwest Planning Area between now and July 1<sup>st</sup> when the Zoning Ordinance and the Board of Adjustment takes effect. Mr. Robinson said that up until that time the Board of County Commissioners would have to address items as needed. The Board of Commissioners has the authority to take care of any item that may need to be addressed prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

\*Mr. Robinson said the Chairman and himself will meet with the City to discuss the joint meeting.

- \*Wednesday, March 21, 8:30 a.m., in EOC, CIP and Financial Plan Workshop
- \*Thursday, March 29, TBA, Joint Meeting with Greenville City Council
- \*NACO Meeting, March 3-7, 2001, Washington, DC
- \*Sheppard Memorial Library Ribbon Cutting of new facility, Sunday, April 22 @ 2pm
- \*Mobile Dental Unit at Sam D. Bundy School open house, February 20 at 2:30 p.m.
- \*Mr. Bulow gave a brief update on the EMS and Communications Studies

Mr. Bulow stated that the consultant has completed gathering information on the EMS study and is working on the short and long recommendations for the Board. They will be meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> and plan to bring the recommendations before the Board in March. On the communications study, they will bring some preliminary budget figures to the Board also.

- \*Proposed meeting with Legislative Delegation on Legislative Goals
- Ms. JoAnne Burgdorff said they will be going to a luncheon meeting with the Pitt County Delegates on February 28, 2001. Most of the legislators have responded that they can meet on that date. Ms. Burgdorff said that Pitt County submitted fifteen goals and some new goals have come forward since that submission. She said the original goals were approved in October by the Board. Chairman Hammond said that at the Board of Directors meeting they reviewed the goals and tight money was going to be a great problem. Commissioner Shank said the counties need to make sure there is more leeway on the 9-1-1 surcharge and expressed how important this issue is to Pitt County.

- \*Other Matters as needed

Mr. Robinson addressed the matter of the commissioner briefing meetings that has generated such media and public interest. He said he had held these briefings for at least one year if not two or more. He said he needs good communication with the commissioners and he uses the briefings for this purpose. He spoke about the briefings not being an open meeting and that this Board has not violated the open meetings law by holding these briefings. He said he would like to continue the briefings as he has but he needs to meet at least once a month in meetings with the commissioners whether in briefings on the agenda or not. Chairman Hammond said there are rumors about the Board was getting together behind closed doors. He said they are not doing anything that any citizen could not see. Commissioner James said there have been meetings like this for sixteen years even under the previous Manager. Vice Chairman Bowen said that he has been having problems with the newspaper and Mary Schulken's editorials depict the Board as something was going on that should not be but this was not the case. Commissioner Royal said he has no problem with these meetings being in a public forum. He said he did not think the commissioners had a private agenda. He said there should not be anything discussed in these meetings that the public should not be able to view. Commissioner Coulson said he believed they should be open to the public but there is debate about the issues. He said the people only get to hear if they are for or against something and the public does not get to hear the debate. Commissioner James said it needs to be done one way or the other but a decision needs to be made. Commissioner Shank said if the meetings are opened to the public then it will have to be handled as a regular Board meeting with a quorum required, staff present, and it will have to be an official meeting and she did not support it. She said does not want a part of any meeting that there is a distrust of the public. Mr. Robinson said that the media would also have to be present and he and the Board have been misquoted so many times and he would rather not have the meetings open. Commissioner Ward said the effectiveness of the meetings was helpful in that she felt she was better prepared to make decisions at the Board meetings. She said she still makes her comments in the public meeting. She said the meetings are primarily for review of the agenda. She is not in favor of another Board meeting to prepare for the Board meetings. She was in favor of holding the meetings and not have a quorum but would still like to have a set time to come and review the agenda. She said the regular meetings go on and on even with the pre-agenda meetings.

### **Financial Report – Melonie Bryan**

? **January 2001 Monthly Financial Report**

Ms. Bryan reported that through January 31, 2001, they have completed 58.33% of the fiscal year. At present, revenues are at approximately 66.88% of budget while expenditures are at 52.43% of budget. There was no use of fund balance.

Releases & Refunds - \$100 or Less  
Total County Releases: 279 - \$9,813.60  
Total City Releases: 171 - \$6,444.73  
Total Tax Refunds: 31 - \$783.13

Total Contingency Available: \$156,403.00

? **Response to the Governor's Budgetary Actions** – Ms. Bryan stated that the Manager and Finance Officer looked at revenues and expenditures. The budget that was adopted was very conservative and they felt they were pretty much on target. They have met with staff and asked them to look at their budgets and identify back to them monies that they may not spend this fiscal year. They have until the end of this week to get the information back to them. The Department Heads were very responsive and appreciative of this process. He said that money has been withheld by the State. As more information comes from the State, the Manager will come back to the Board. Mr. Robinson said that many of the positions are grant positions or State funded which will not help the County if the positions are not filled. He said they are looking at capital items which were needed but will be put off until possibly the next year. There is a 17% to 22% increase in use of Medicaid. Mr. Robinson said that \$1 million to \$1.5 million increase is expected in next year's budget for Medicaid and \$200,000-\$400,000 in foster care alone. Vice Chairman Bowen asked about the reimbursement from the Pitt County Memorial Hospital on Medicaid. Ms. Bryan said there is a 3% cap on how much the Medicaid reimbursement to the County, through the transfer agreement, that can be increased from the Hospital. Ms. Bryan explained how those figures were estimated. The County pays 5% of Medicaid expense from any healthcare facility or medical services operations. Commissioner Shank said the Board needs definite figures and should not assume anything. Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Bryan to share what the Governor's actions would cost the County for the remainder of this year. Ms. Bryan said it equates to \$815,000 being withheld for the April payment. Commissioner James spoke about the Patients Bill of Rights. Commissioner Owens asked about the \$815,000. Ms. Bryan said this \$815,000 would be a deficit in the Social Services budget. Commissioner Owens said the Manager told this Board that this was coming two or three years ago. Commissioner Coulson said the Hospital made \$42-\$43 million last year and since the transfer they have increased their rates twice. He also commented about property purchases of the Hospital.

**Revenue Enhancement Measures**

Ms. Bryan said that the County staff is already looking at the following ways to increase revenues. She reviewed the following ways targeted for increasing revenues:

- ? Robert S. Segal, CPA - contract with him to look at ways to increase revenues. Commissioner Coulson stated concern about the 35% fee that goes to the consultant for this service. Jail revenues will be looked at to assure State and Federal reimbursements are in line. The service to review Jail Reimbursements will cost 50%. Commissioner Coulson asked why Mr. Segal should ask for 50% of the cost. Ms. Bryan said there is a lot of time involved and the potential to recover funds is not as likely there. McGladrey and Pullen did the service some

years ago and their rates were comparable. Commissioner Ward agreed that she would like Ms. Bryan to negotiate and try to get the fees reduced.

- ? Increased usage of Temporary part-time staff - Tax Collector's Office
- ? Consideration of alternative usage of part-time staff -Tax Assessor's Office
- ? Reimbursement Maximization - rearrange staff in the County Finance Office targeting some reimbursements from the State.
- ? 7-year Revaluation Schedule Changes - will look at later in the agenda.

Mr. Robinson said that the agriculture damages during the flood was higher than the assessed tax valuation. They have asked Tax Assessor to look into some discrepancies in agriculture and mobile home values.

#### **Grant Pre-Applications – Melonie Bryan**

Ms. Bryan reported on the following grant pre-applications that have been submitted as follows:

- 1) Governor's Crime Commission Application for the Juvenile Justice Advocates Program submitted by the Mental Health Association.
- 2) Governor's Crime Commission Application for the Abuser Treatment Expansion Project submitted by Family Violence Program, Inc.

#### **Monthly Tax Collections Report – Jeff Niebauer**

Mr. Niebauer spoke about the citizens ability to pay their taxes over the internet for a small fee and can also pay over the telephone. He said the advertisement on unpaid taxes will be in the newspaper soon.

#### **SUMMARY OF 2000/2001 INFORMATION**

Tax collection activity Pitt County:

Total Jan 2001 Collections:	\$ 8,933,835
Total to Date 2000/2001:	\$37,160,326

Pitt County Levy:	
Jan 2001 Levy:	\$40,245,263

Jan 2001 Percent Collected:	88.95
Original Levy	91.30
Supplemental & Vehicle	75.8

Total collection activity all units including Pitt County:

Total Jan 2001 Collections:	\$13,022,624
Total to Date 2000/2001:	\$54,968,987

Garnishments for Jan 2001:	\$ 70,983
Bankruptcy for Jan 2001:	\$ 29,483
Occupancy for Dec 2000:	\$ 69,308
Occupancy Total to Date 00/01	\$ 540,536
Gross Receipts Dec 2000	\$ 10,686
Gross Receipts total to date	\$ 80,227

#### **Recycling and Solid Waste Report – Paula Clark**

Ms. Paula Clark, Recycling Coordinator, has been on Board since September and her focus is to bring recycling back to the schools. She reported on the landfill rules and regulations. Group tours are available for students she and invited the Board to tour the transfer station. She gave an overview of the process of what happens to different forms of waste that is brought to the Pitt County Transfer Station. She reviewed each of the areas and what happens to the waste. She said gave a report on the annual statistics for the waste disposal and recyclables. She stated that with 28,000 tons recycled last year the County had an avoidance cost of slightly over \$1 million. The State has set a goal to reduce 40% reduction by 2002.

Chairman Hammond asked about the methane gas contract with the Hospital. Mr. Dickerson said that this gas is a liability situation for the County. He said the gas has to be controlled and there is an agreement with Enterdyne Corp. to collect the gas and provide it to the Hospital as an alternate source of energy. The County gets the royalties from this gas and the gas control system. Vice Chairman Bowen asked about the white goods disposal fee. Mr. Scales said the fee comes back to the County. Commissioner Ward praised Ms. Clark stating this was a wonderful presentation. She said they do a remarkable job.

Commissioner Royal said some citizens on Highway 33 continue to complain about waste on the roadsides. He said on Highway 11 he saw some debris falling out of a Waste Industries truck and wanted to know what could be done about this problem. Mr. Scales said if a license tag, vehicle name and information could be provided to Mr. Steve Cannon then they will track the truck down and take the appropriate action. Mr. Steve Cannon was introduced to the Board.

**Presentation of Outstanding County Program Award for Education Compact by Paul Meyer, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners**

Mr. Robinson introduced Mr. Paul Meyer, with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners stating that Mr. Meyer's purpose for attending was to present the County with the Outstanding County Program Award from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. Mr. Meyer said that the organization represents all one hundred counties and represents their interest to the General Assembly. He said the Education Compact was one of 53 applicants with 10 awards Statewide. He explained counties and school systems argue each year over budget. The purpose of the compact was to match educational performance with financial support. A five-year goal was set for Pitt County to be third in the State with education. Chairman Hammond, Jill Camnitz, Mr. Robinson, Beth Ward, Commissioner Shank, and Dr. Michael Priddy, Schools Superintendent, came forward for presentation of the award. Dr. Priddy spoke on behalf of the School Board for their appreciation.

A five minute break was called at this time, 10:40 a.m.

**ITEMS FOR CONSENT**

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

1. Tax Refunds Greater than \$100

Total Refunds (Greater than \$100) - 8 \$2,471.79

2. Budget Amendment – Human Services/Health Department

This budget amendment recognizes the receipt of additional State revenue for the Health Department's WIC program and subsequently decreases planned use of fund balance in that

program.

<u>Acct No.:</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
153167-499101	Fund Balance – Medicaid		\$15,947
153167-436500	DHHS Funds	\$15,947	

3. Budget Amendment – Hurricane Floyd Grants

Hurricane Floyd Grants – Recognize additional grants made by Pitt County to SBA eligible homeowners.

<u>Acct No.:</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
245500 569503	Homeowner Grants	\$120,000	
242400 436000	Non-Federal Categorical	120,000	

4. Budget Amendment – Recovery Operations Center

The County received a contribution of \$4,728.17 from the South Lee Street Community Development Corporation to aid in payment of the Recovery Operations phone system. This budget amendment appropriates the revenue and expenditures of these funds.

<u>Acct No.:</u>	<u>Title of Account</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
102800 489000	Contributions	\$4,728.17	
104911 532100	Telephones	4,728.17	

5. Approval of Minutes

6. Public Hearing for FY 2001-2002 HOME funds

Currently, the HOME Program provides additional monies to supplement the County's ongoing Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. This year the program provided \$55,600 which is being used to rehabilitate two additional homes.

The proposed HOME funding for 2001-2002 is \$838,000 of which approximately \$75,000 will be allocated to Pitt County to continue supplementation of CDBG activities.

To allow the County's continued participation, Pitt County must hold a public hearing on a proposed budget and statement of activities. A Resolution of Adoption must be approved no later than March 26, 2001.

**ITEMS FOR DECISION**

**Adopt Resolution of Appreciation for ECU Chancellor Richard Eakin – Tom Robinson**

Mr. Robinson informed the Board of the retirement of East Carolina University's Chancellor Richard Eakin and asked the Board to approve the following resolution acknowledging the contributions made by Chancellor Eakin.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Shank, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Resolution honoring Richard R. Eakin as retiring Chancellor of East Carolina University.

*PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS*

**GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**RESOLUTION  
HONORING  
RICHARD R. EAKIN**

**WHEREAS**, Pitt County is home to distinguished education institutions, including East Carolina University; and

**WHEREAS**, East Carolina University was founded in 1907 as East Carolina Teachers Training School; and

**WHEREAS**, East Carolina University provides economic, cultural, social, medical, and educational advantages to the citizens of Pitt County, eastern North Carolina, the State of North Carolina and the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, East Carolina University today celebrates the ninety-fourth anniversary of the founding of the institution; and

**WHEREAS**, Richard R. Eakin became the ninth chief executive officer of East Carolina University in 1987 and was installed as Chancellor on April 15, 1988; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Eakin has provided unprecedented leadership of the institution for fourteen years; and

**WHEREAS**, under the leadership of Dr. Eakin, the campus has experienced noteworthy changes, including enrollment increases to eighteen thousand students, new programs at all degree levels, and status as a doctoral institution; and

**WHEREAS**, under his guidance East Carolina University has achieved national prominence in academics, athletics, and student life including critically important medical programs in family practice, rural medicines, telemedicine and robotic-assisted surgery, nationally recognized teacher-preparation programs and a distinct program in maritime studies; and

**WHEREAS**, Chancellor Eakin has announced his retirement from this important position of leadership in Pitt County; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pitt County Board of Commissioners recognizes the important leadership role Richard R. Eakin has performed as Chancellor of East Carolina University and shares its appreciation with him for a job well done on Thursday, the eighth day of March in the year two thousand one at the Founders Day celebration at East Carolina University.

**ADOPTED** this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2001.

Pitt County Board of Commissioners

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David Hammond, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Susan J. Banks, Clerk to the Board

Mr. Robinson said that he would be asking for a closed session item at the end of this meeting.

**State-County Criminal Justice Partnership Program Grant – Michele Whaley**

Mr. Bulow introduced Michele Whaley, Program Director of the State-County Criminal Justice Partnership Program. She stated that the grant has to be approved by this Board and by the Criminal Justice Partnership Board. Mr. Bulow said this same amount of money has been received for five years and no increases have come forward. Michele Whaley stated she took over the program in October, 2000. She stated this program is fully funded by the State and is for the purpose of encouraging employment of offenders. She reviewed staffing of the program and statistics for the last year. She reviewed the goals for 2001-2002 and has set at least 50 members as a goal. Ms. Whaley reviewed the budget for 2001-2002 and stated that the grant is for \$134,117.

**Criminal Justice Partnership Program – Proposed 2001/2002 Budget**

Personnel	\$94,241
Travel	1,300
Contractual	18,276
Operating	20,300
Total	\$134,117

**State-County Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Committee – Michele Whaley**

Commissioner Owens asked about Jeff Foster coming off of this Committee and if there was an attorney being recommended for his replacement. Ms. Whaley stated that an attorney had not been identified that was willing to serve on this committee.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner James, the Board voted unanimously to accept and approve the recommendations on the State-County Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Committee as follows:

- ? Reappointment for one year: Dick Adams, John Bulow, Thomas D. Haigwood, Jeff Holoman, and Skipper McLawhorn.
- ? Cara Smith to replace James Antinore, Public Defenders Office for two year term, June 30, 2003
- ? Joseph Blick to replace David Leech, District Court Judge, for three year term, June 30, 2004
- ? Appoint the following people for three year terms ending June 30, 2004:
  - William Clark Everette, District Attorney's Office
  - Glenda Joyner of Pitt Community College/Human Resource Development
  - Elbert Hill of Sentencing Services
  - William Sirginson of Division of Community Corrections
- ? Appoint the following people for two year terms ending June 30, 2003:
  - Tom Savidge of Mental Health
  - Scott Snead of Division of Community Corrections
  - Lawrence Whaley of the Sheriff's Department
  - Jeff Phillips of Pitt County Detention Center

Commissioner Shank asked about how many people needed to serve on this committee. Ms. Whaley stated that this recommendation meets the minimum requirements of the General Statutes.

**UPON MOTION** by Chairman Hammond, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously have Vice Chairman Bowen replace Mr. Savage on this Criminal Justice Partnership with a two year term ending June 30, 2003.

Mr. Bulow asked the Board to take action on the grant as well since it was not done during Ms. Whaley's report.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Royal, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed Criminal Justice Partnership Grant for 2001-2002 in the amount of \$134,117.

Vice Chairman Bowen asked about sending some of these workers to Eastern Carolina Vocational Center (ECVC) for employment. Ms. Whaley stated that she is working through this process and is hopeful that ECVC will offer employment to some of the members of this program.

**Purchase of Diesel Wheel Loader for Solid Waste Dept. – Joel Scales/John Weaver**

Mr. Joel Scales said the funds are budgeted for the purchase of a diesel wheel loader for the Solid Waste Department. He provided the Board with the list of bidders and bids and asked that the Board award this to the low bidder.

<b>Company</b>	<b>Bid</b>
R.W. Moore Equipment Company	\$157,840
Less: Trade In	14,500
Total	\$143,340
Briggs Construction Equipment, Inc.	\$139,977.24
Less: Trade In	9,000
Total	\$130,977.24

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner James, the Board voted unanimously to award this contract to the low bidder, Briggs Construction Equipment Inc. in the amount of \$130,977.24, including tax and trade-in.

**Perpetual Drainage Maintenance Study Committee Structure – James Rhodes**

Mr. Dwane Jones stated that the drainage problems need to be addressed in Pitt County. The first project would be to look at beaver dams. Cletus Heart Road, Emerald Chase Subdivision, Hunterchase Subdivision areas were shown as examples. He submitted the proposed committee and the agencies that need to be included. He said that in January the Planning Staff solicited people to serve on this committee with help from Tim Etheridge.

It was anticipated that it would take approximately one year to formulate recommendations on various methods for improving and/or maintaining drainage systems. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has recommended the committee should first study drainage issues associated with beaver dams. The impacts of the beaver control problem have become obvious during the debris removal (snagging) projects performed throughout the county. Other issues to be researched include maintenance of drainage improvements within new planned developments (e.g. subdivisions) and mechanisms for providing maintenance to existing drainage systems that have begun to fail.

Commissioner Shank **motioned**, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to accept the structure of the Perpetual Drainage Maintenance Committee and move forward with this program. Commissioner Owens asked where the landowners live that were being recommended. He asked why these particular people were on the committee. Mr. Jones said they were landowners that had solicited the Planning Department about volunteering on this project. The motion passed unanimously.

The Perpetual Drainage Maintenance Study Committee was as follows:

- ? Pitt County Planning Department - James Rhodes, (Planning Director) Dwane Jones (Planning Technician)
- ? Pitt County Soil and Water Conservation Service – Tim Etheridge (District Conservationist)
- ? Pitt County Drainage Districts Officers – Charles Vandiford (Drainage District Officer)
- ? NC Department of Transportation – Woody Jarvis (Engineer)
- ? US Army Corps of Engineers- Henry Wicker (Regulatory Project Manager)
- ? NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Richard Peed (Assistant Regional Sediment Specialist)
- ? NC Division of Water Quality – Deborah Sawyer (Environmental Technician)
- ? Pitt County Engineering Department – Phil Dickerson (County Engineer)
- ? Pitt County Legal Department – JoAnne Burgdorff (County Attorney), Janis Gallagher (Attorney)
- ? Pitt County Environmental Health Department – Mark Phelps, Ernie Nichols (Environmental Health Specialist)
- ? Land Owners – Eddy Moore, D.T. Jones, Lynwood Worthington, Jr.
- ? Developer/Engineer – Linwood Stroud (Engineer/Developer Representative)
- ? Planning Board – Blaine Humphrey (At-large), Dan Wynne (District 3)

### **Crisis Housing Assistance Programs – Eddy Davis**

Mr. Eddy Davis, Planner II, stated that by March 9, 2001, the housing recovery assistance centers for Pitt County which is South Lee Street Ayden Neighborhood Improvement, Inc., must have all approved applications to the County. One week later, the County must have any amendments to the original Grant in to the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Staff requested that the Board allow the Chairman, to act on behalf of the Board, to sign the Crisis Housing Assistance Fund Grant Amendment because the Board will not be meeting before the deadline.

Ms. Melba Gorham, Lead Counselor, said the preliminary numbers indicated that as many as 200 additional clients may qualify for this program. They are looking at around 280 applications since the deadline was set. She reported the original grant had a total of 154 applicants for total amount of \$6,455,900. Of these, 82 applicants are Repair/Rehabilitation for a total of \$1,307,900 and 72 being Replacement for an amount of \$5,148,000. The total amount of funds requested will depend on the number of each of these in the application.

Mr. Davis said this would be a grant application request.

Commissioner James **motioned** to give the Chairman the authority to sign the grant application request for the Pitt County R-1 (Rehabilitation) & R/2 (Replacement) Crisis Housing Assistance Fund Grant Amendments. Commissioner Shank seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Second Reading of Moratorium – Glen Moore & JoAnne Burgdorff**

Mr. Glen Moore, Planning staff, stated that this ordinance was originally approved by the Board with a five to three vote on February 5, 2001. This is the second reading of the moratorium as required due to the split vote. He reviewed the process of actions on the Northwest Zoning Ordinance. The moratorium is to be enacted to prohibit conditional uses and special uses prior to July 1, 2001 when the zoning ordinance comes into effect. Chairman Hammond asked about the difference between the subdivision and mobile home parks. The Board discussed the reason behind requiring brick versus vinyl underpinning on mobile homes. Commissioner Coulson said he thought there was a positive effect on insurance for brick underpinning. Commissioner Shank stated that the brick underpinning has a positive effect because people can get better financing and insurance. Commissioner Johnson stated that this actual change will not come into affect until July 1, 2001 when the zoning ordinance is enacted. Commissioner Coulson said once the moratorium is over, the brick underpinning requirement will go into effect. He said there are unique circumstances in some situations.

Commissioner Ward **motioned** to accept the second reading of the Moratorium with an effective date of February 20th. Commissioner Shank seconded the motion. The motion passed with a six to three vote. Commissioners opposed to the motion were: Owens, Bowen and Coulson.

#### AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN LAND USES IN THE NORTHWEST PLANNING AREA

WHEREAS, the Pitt County Planning Board has recommended a Zoning Ordinance of the Northwest Planning Area, and the public hearing required for adoption of said ordinance by the Board of Commissioners has been held; and

WHEREAS, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners has adopted said Zoning Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish a Board of Adjustment, to appoint members of that Board and to provide training for that body prior to the effective date of the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, it will require time to meet the requirements of the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, a moratorium on the establishment of certain land uses located within the Northwest Planning Area to be covered by the Ordinance is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Pitt County and to ensure that the plans for development of the area are not negatively impacted during the period of time prior to the effective date of the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, this moratorium shall prohibit the establishment of the following conditional or special uses, as cited in the Ordinance, during the period of time following the adoption of this Ordinance and the effective date of the NW Planning Area Zoning Ordinance on July 1,

2001, such as the following:

**Prohibited Conditional Uses:**

swine farms  
mining, quarrying, sand pits, and mineral extraction  
correctional institutions  
airport or air transportation facility  
demolition debris landfill  
hazardous and radioactive waste  
heliport  
landing strip, flying field  
sewage treatment plant  
solid waste disposal (non-hazardous)  
water treatment plant  
salvage yards, auto parts

**Prohibited Special Uses:**

homeless shelter  
manufactured home park, major  
multi-family dwelling, 5 units or more  
race track operation  
shooting range, outdoor  
ammunition, small arms  
animal slaughter or rendering  
sexually-oriented business; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 153A-121 empowers the Pitt County Board of County Commissioners to enact, by ordinance, provisions which promote the health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners that it does hereby institute, effective immediately, a moratorium on the establishment of certain land uses within the Northwest Planning Area for the period of time following the adoption of this Moratorium until July 1, 2001.

Adopted this the 19th day of February, 2001.

PITT COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to the Board

**Budget Amendment – Buildings and Grounds/Repair of Building – Melonie Bryan**

Ms. Bryan stated that the Farmville Child Development Center had a fire and the insurance will not cover the entire repair so there is a need to use contingency funds.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendment for Buildings and Grounds for repair of the Farmville Child Development Center, a county-owned facility.

<b>ACCOUNT NO.</b>	<b>TITLE OF ACCOUNT</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>DECREASE</b>
102800 485000 Rev	Insurance Settlements	6,388	
109910 599100 Exp	Contingency		2,500
104260 535101 Exp	Repair of Buildings	8,888	

**Budget Amendment for Elections Office – Melonie Bryan**

Ms. Bryan stated with the national election this year, the Elections budget is going to need some contingency funds to make it through the remainder of the year.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Ward, the Board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendment for the Elections Office Budget as follows:

<b>ACCOUNT NO.</b>	<b>TITLE OF ACCOUNT</b>	<b>INCREASE</b>	<b>DECREASE</b>
104170 512200	Overtime	2,200	
104170 512600	Temp & Part-time Help	11,500	
104170 512700	Longevity	75	
104170 531200	Travel General	2,000	
104170 532100	Telephone	4,500	
104170 534100	Printing	30,000	
104170 539300	Temporary labor	175	
104170 549100	Dues & Subscriptions	150	
104170 551000	Ofc. Furniture & Equipment	5,485	
104170 519902	Precinct Supplements		7,143
104170 522000	Food & Provisions		12,943
104170 535200	Repairs/Maint. Equipment		3,010
104170 537000	Advertising		290
104170 539906	Redistricting Mapping		2,301
104170 541200	Building Rent		2,740
104170 543300	Vehicle Rent		2,761
104170 621000	Contracted Services		9,600
109910 599100	General fund – Contingency		15,297

**Resolution for Special Legislation for a Pilot Program (addition to agenda)**

Ms. Hardee stated that she need a resolution approved from the Board of Commissioners to take to the General Assembly to take action to address problems they have every year when voters go to the wrong precinct. She said sometimes the voters cannot get through to the Elections office on the Election Day by telephone when they have gone to the wrong precinct to vote. The solution is to allow any voter to vote in any precinct in Pitt County.

She asked the Board's support for legislation allowing the pilot program using computers with an ongoing up-to-date database on voters. Commissioner Ward asked if this includes asking the State for the funding of the pilot program. Ms. Hardee said she does not know any other way to make it easier for the citizens. Mr. Robinson said there are some costs issues involved. He said there are some issues to work through because there would be a problem if everyone shows up at the same precinct and he was not sure this had been carefully thought through.

Commissioner James motioned to approve the resolution to apply with the State for the pilot program and once it has been approved, then the Board of Elections would return to the Board of Commissioners with the costs involved and at that time, the Board of Commissioners would decide if it can be funded and move forward with the pilot program. Commissioner Shank seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Bowen offered a substitute motion to proceed on the grounds that the Board is looking at it with no commitment. The substitute motion did not receive a second. Ms. Hardee said they are asking for support to take the request to the State Board of Elections. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

### **Appointments to Pitt County Board of Adjustment – Susan Banks**

Mr. Robinson said that he has spoken with Mr. James Rhodes and would like to move this item to the first meeting in April. He also asked if there was additional direction to the Clerk on how to advertise to fill the alternate positions. Commissioner Royal spoke about the Board members being from one area and how will this be addressed if other parts of the County become zoned in the future.

Commissioner James motioned, seconded by Commissioner Shank, to defer action on this item until the first meeting in April and that two alternates be from anywhere in the Pitt County zoned area and as other areas are added, then the Board of Adjustment be increased to give them representation.

Commissioner Royal offered a substitute motion to work on a plan for comprehensive zoning of the County. He is totally committed to the comprehensive plan. There was no second to the substitute motion. He said it is fruitless to appoint everyone from one area if the entire County is going to be zoned. Commissioner James suggested that the alternates come from anywhere in the County. Commissioner Ward spoke to the staggered terms being the opportunity to replace people with other areas and stated that eventually everyone will have proper representation.

Commissioner Ward **motioned** to accept and change the alternates to be from a countywide pool. Vice Chairman Bowen disagreed because the people could then be appointed areas that are under municipal zoning. Commissioner Shank said that she thought the intention was that when another area is brought into the zoning ordinance then they would be represented on the Board of Adjustment. She said the proposal is appropriate at this time but once an area is zoned, they would need to have representation. Commissioner Coulson said the members need to come from the four corners of the County. He said this Board of Adjustment is supposed to interpret the meaning of the zoning ordinance and he supports appointing people from the four corners of the County. Commissioner James said he is supportive of the alternates being from any part of the County. He said it is an ordinance to be enforced and it does not matter where the people reside.

Commissioner James restated his motion to indicate the desire to keep the Board of Adjustments the same and have the two alternates come from any part of the County.

Commissioner Coulson and Mr. Robinson discussed the zoning ordinance as it applies to the Board of Adjustment members and their authority.

Commissioner James **motioned** for two alternates to be from anywhere in the Pitt County area, outside of municipal zoned areas, and as other areas are added, then the Board be increased to give those citizens representation. The motion passed with five votes. Commissioner Shank seconded the motion. Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner James, Commissioner Shank, Chairman Hammond and Commissioner Ward were in favor of the motion.

Voting against the motion were: Commissioner Royal, Commissioner Coulson, Commissioner Owens, and Vice Chairman Bowen.

### **Appointment and Reappointments to Industrial Revenue & Pollution Control Authority – Susan Banks**

Ms. Banks presented a recommendation to reappoint Chuck Burns, Jerry Carson and James Dupree to the Industrial Revenue and Pollution Control Authority.

**UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Coulson, the Board voted unanimously to reappoint Chuck Burns, Jerry Carson and James Dupree and add Bonner Latham to the Industrial Revenue and Pollution Control Authority for three year terms.

### **Consideration of 7-year Revaluation (effective 01/01/03) – Melonie Bryan**

Ms. Bryan stated that she asked the Board to look at moving the revaluation (reval) from an eight-year schedule to a seven-year schedule and later to consider moving it up each year to a four-year schedule. The last revaluation was in 1996. The sales assessment ratio was at 82%. She said a lot of properties are selling for more than their tax value. The software program is twenty-five years old. They are looking to do a revaluation in 2003. The values do not maintain the rate. They looked at it as an equity issue. Personal property is taxed at 100% every year but real property is being taxed at 82%. If the valuation is not kept current, then there will be large differences when a revaluation is done. There are areas that have great increases in the market. The market factors attribute to these values. Mr. Robinson said the tax base should be fair and uniform. The revenue generation is important also. He said the County lost \$70,000 in valuation in utilities. Commissioner Coulson said he is not sure the assessment is always true and accurate. He asked what the costs would be for the reassessment. Ms. Bryan said it cost about \$350,000 and the County puts aside \$50,000 per year for the expense. She said there are sufficient funds to do the revaluation. They discussed utility values. If the County is under 90% then they discount which caused a loss of \$70,000 in Pitt County and this happens annually. Commissioner James explained how the tax values are figured.

Commissioner Owens said the time is not appropriate to do a revaluation because of the flood disaster the County has suffered. He said if the Board increases the taxes more often than eight years, then it is a tax increase. He said that people who do planning have to have budget time frame and this would put them at a disadvantage. He said this is a back door approach to a tax increase.

Mr. Robinson said he had some points that need to be made on this discussion. The Pitt County valuation is only 75% of the State average. Valuation is low. The tax base in Pitt County is over \$2 billion short of the State average. There are a lot of economic engines in Pitt County. Two major sources of revenue are property tax and sales tax and six of the top businesses do not pay either tax. Pitt County's tax rate is right at the State average. Since 1996 the tax rate has gone up two cents and that was for education and economic development. The value of the dollar is diminishing and Pitt County has not made up the difference. He reviewed budget balancing factors and why the need to move the revaluation schedule up exists. He stated that this is a revenue generating effort. He stated that some of the reasons to consider a four-year versus eight-year revaluation are for tax equity, revenue generation and stable tax rates.

Mr. Robinson reviewed the growing needs in the County. He provided the Board with four different scenarios for consideration. Thirty counties have gone to a four-year revaluation cycle. The staff is asking for the Board to consider a seven-year revaluation cycle. He said it would be helpful to know when hiring staff for the revaluation, if the Board was going to move to a four-year cycle. Commissioner James said he supports the seven-year revaluation cycle. He said the poor people will not be effected. He said the people that own property, need to be the people who pay the tax. Vice Chairman Bowen said the costs of increases will filter down to the consumer one way or another. Chairman Hammond said he appreciated the presentation but tax increases are unpopular when people do not get any relief. Mr. Robinson said the taxes should be done fairly.

Commissioner Johnson **motioned** to postpone consideration of changing the tax revaluation cycle until the first meeting in April. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. The motion failed with a four to five vote. In favor of the motion were: Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Bowen, and Commissioner Coulson. The other four commissioners were opposed.

Commissioner James **motioned** to start the procedure for the seven-year revaluation as recommended by the staff. Commissioner Shank seconded the motion and the motion failed with a four to five vote. In favor of this motion were: Commissioner James, Commissioner Shank, Commissioner Royal, and Commissioner Ward. The remaining commissioners were opposed to this motion.

### **Reconsideration of meeting dates**

Vice Chairman Bowen said he was mixed up on the meeting times when the vote was taken to go to a night meeting schedule. Therefore, he motioned for the Board to go back to the original meeting schedule for 2001 that was adopted at the December 2000 meeting. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion stating that this schedule was for the Board to meet on the first and third Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m. The motion passed with a six to three vote. In favor of this motion were: Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner James, Vice Chairman Hammond, Commissioner Bowen and Commissioner Ward. Commissioners in opposition were Commissioner Coulson, Commissioner Royal, and Commissioner Shank.

Ms. Banks asked for clarification on the March meeting. It was the consensus of the Board that this meeting would be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- ? Commissioner James said the Pactolus Rescue workers need more volunteers.
- ? Chairman Hammond spoke about people who are volunteers working and not having proper assistance.
- ? Commissioner Ward reported that the Airport administrative offices are open for operation. The rest of the recovery from the flood should be in April and they will have a rededication ceremony.
- ? Commissioner Coulson said he met with some people from the rescue squads. They estimated they need \$1.7 million. He said this Board will have to address the funding needs. As for volunteers, the volunteer service is going to be lost because they are burned out. In Greenville, they have four people on a truck but in the County you may be lucky to have two people. The Community College offers a paramedic class but it is only taught if they have enough. He asked if the Community College could be required by the County to teach the Paramedic course. If a call is answered, they may not have the proper training the way things currently are structured.
- ? Vice Chairman Bowen spoke about problems with the Daily Reflector, he said the Commissioners have been having commissioner briefings for several years. He said the

newspaper tries to mislead people. He quoted the February 15<sup>th</sup> editorial, about Ed Booth, Ayden Town Manager being at a meeting. He said he does not have a problem with Mr. Whichard or Al Clark but he does have a problem with Mary Schulken, who writes the editorials.

- ? Chairman Hammond praised Dr. Michael Priddy, Schools Superintendent, for addressing truancy of children who may be in the malls during the school day. He commended Dr. Priddy on this matter.

### **Closed Session**

Ms. Burgdorff cited the following statute authorizing the Board to go into closed session: G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel and (7) criminal allegations

Vice Chairman Bowen **motioned** to go into closed session after a five minutes recess. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

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

### **ADJOURN**

**UPON MOTION** by Vice Chairman Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Shank, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC  
Clerk to the Board