

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR MAY 21, 2001**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, May 21, 2001, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

David Hammond, Chairman
Glenn Bowen, Vice Chairman
Tom Coulson, Commissioner
Eugene James, Commissioner
Tom Johnson, Commissioner
Mark Owens, Commissioner
Randy Royal, Commissioner
Terry Shank, Commissioner
Beth Ward, Commissioner

Staff present:

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 gave the invocation. Chairman Hammond led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chairman Hammond

Commissioner Royal motioned, seconded by Commissioner James, for approval of the agenda. Vice Chairman Bowen stated he wanted to add a closed session to discuss a personnel item. The Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

PUBLIC HEARING – Rezoning for Louis Wallace Property

Staff Comments: Mr. Rhodes stated that the zoning ordinance has been printed and bound with the amendments. This is a seven acre tract where a wrecker service operation exists. This operation was not covered in the moratorium. He could have pursued his changes before July 1, 2001. Or he could have waited for zoning ordinance to be in place and then as for variance and third option is rezoning of property. On April 18, the Planning Board met and favorably recommended the change of this zoning from rural residential to general commercial. Notice was provided to surrounding property owners. The public hearing is to be held today. The address is 3564 Old River Road. He provided a description of the location of the property and a picture of the site. There are a few other commercial uses that will be grandfathered in but Mr. Wallace intends to expand this business. Commissioner James said it should have been

Open Public Hearing: No one spoke.

Close Public Hearing: Chairman Hammond c

Consider motion on Rezoning: Commissioner James **motioned** to follow the recommendation of the Planning Staff and Board to approve the rezoning request for the Louis Wallace Property on 3564 Old River Road from rural residential to general commercial. Vice Chairman Bowen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC ADDRESSES TO THE BOARD – Each speaker is limited to three minutes and must sign up to speak prior to the beginning of the meeting.

- ? **Nancy Colville** - spoke about Deby Dihoff's comments about Mental Health at the last Board meeting. She spoke in support of the Board's action to keep the Mental Health Program's relationship with the County the way it currently exists. She spoke about the write-offs done by Mental Health and the way they were in financial trouble two years ago. She stated that under the direct supervision of the County Finance Officer, they were able to make improvements. The salary of the Mental Health Director is an example of the way the Mental Health Board thinks about the County. Ms. Dihoff's salary exceeds the County Finance Officer's salary and the Social Services Director who has many numbers of years of service with Pitt County. She spoke of the reduction in force where Mental Health employees with poor performance as well as good employees were laid off. Ms. Dihoff needs to understand that one or two years of good performance does not justify a change. She praised Ms. Bryan and Dee Bowling's work on Mental Health, stating they were not recognized for their time and work put into turning the Mental Health Program around.

ITEMS FOR REPORT

Manager's Report – Tom Robinson

Mr. Robinson informed the Board of upcoming meetings.

- a. Board's Schedule –
 1. Budget Sessions – May 22, 23 and 24 @ 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
– Commissioners' Auditorium
 2. June 4 and 18, 9:00 a.m. Regular meeting, Commissioners' Auditorium
 3. June 12, 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing on 2001-02 Budget, Commissioners' Auditorium
- b. Legislative Update – JoAnne Burgdorff
Ms. Burgdorff stated that all of Pitt County's legislative requests are in committee and the 911 bill will be discussed for some time and may not come out with action this year. A bill for Sheriff's processing fees has been introduced increasing fees from \$5-\$10.
- c. Fire Tower Road Widening Project – May 29 @ PCC, Leslie Building, Room 143
- 5:00 - 6:30 Open House
- 7:00 Formal Presentation and Public Hearing

Mr. Collice Moore, Board member of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, encouraged the Board to get people to participate in this meeting concerning Fire Tower Road. He said that they record everything and it is then played back in Raleigh so they can see if the people are concerned and interested in what is happening to this project.

- d. Grant Application for Sheriff's Dept. – Abuse You Lose Program, \$35,000
Ms. Bryan stated that this is the fourth year for this grant and it only requires an in-kind match. She expects the County to be awarded this grant.
- e. Other matters as needed – Mr. Robinson said the Board had authorized staff to negotiate with Mr. Shivers for property but he has accepted an option from someone else so the property has been lost for the community schools program. Commissioner James suggested that the staff talk with

the Schools Program about using some of their property for community schools because they have eighty-eight acres on an existing site that could be utilized.

Monthly Financial Report – Melonie Bryan

Ms. Bryan said they are watching what the State is doing on reimbursements. Fund balance was \$32 million on June 30, 2000. They keep anywhere from \$14 to \$16 million invested at all times. On the average, \$15 million is in fund balance without the Hospital funds. Eight percent is required in fund balance. The State recommends 16% in fund balance. Ms. Bryan said she has had to advance over \$5 million in hurricane solid waste needs and fighting to get the reimbursements from the Federal Government. Commissioner Coulson asked about where the funds were coming from. Chairman Hammond asked if there was anyway to speed up this process. Ms. Bryan stated there is a meeting at 1:30 p.m. today with a representative from the State to discuss this problem.

She provided the following report:

Fund Balance - General Fund:	\$ 44,625,858.	(06/30/00)
\$ 4,047,261.	(Unreserved but designated)	
\$ 32,652,074.	(Undesignated) 38.52%	

Total Budget: \$161,535,630. **83.33%** of Fiscal Year completed

Summary of Revenues:	<u>Apr 2001</u>	<u>YTD 00-01</u>
General Operating Funds	\$ 7,592,218.	\$99,715,932.**
Enterprise Fund	723,438.	6,020,506
All Other Funds	<u>265,493.</u>	<u>21,099,237</u>
	\$ 8,581,149.	\$126,835,675.
 Percent of Budget:	 5.31%	 78.52%

Summary of Expenditures:	<u>Apr 2001</u>	<u>YTD 00-01</u>
General Operating Funds	\$ 9,700,786.	\$92,171,672.
Enterprise Fund	402,414.	7,203,114.
All Other Funds	<u>642,754.</u>	<u>20,640,889.</u>
	\$10,745,954.	\$120,015,675.
 Percent of Budget:	 6.65%	 74.30%

**Does not include any appropriated fund balance as budgeted.

**Tax
Releases
And
Refunds
April 2001**

Total County Releases:	273	\$9,798.28
Total City Releases:	141	\$5,218.59
Total Tax Refunds:	35	\$1,013.34

Monthly Tax Collection Report – Jeff Niebauer

Mr. Jeff Niebauer gave the following:

SUMMARY OF 2000/2001 INFORMATION:

SUMMARY OF 1999/2000 FOR COMPARISON:

Tax collection activity Pitt County:				Difference	% Diff
Total Apr 2001 Collections:	\$1,016,390	Total Apr 2000 Collections:	\$700,153	316,237	45.17
Total to Date 2000/2001:	\$41,072,121	Total to Date 1999/2000	\$40,198,236	873,885	2.17
Pitt County Levy:					
Apr 2001 Levy:	\$41,662,903	Apr 2000 Levy :	\$40,076,580	1,586,323	3.96
Apr 2001 Percent Collected:	93.60	Apr 2000 Percent Collected:	93.78		
Original Levy	96.32	Original Levy	96.50		
Supplemental & Vehicle	80.9	Supplemental & Vehicle	79.5		
Total collection activity all units including Pitt County:					
Total Apr 2001 Collections:	\$1,551,380	Total Apr 2000 Collections:	\$1,067,342	484,038	45.35
Total to Date 2000/2001:	\$60,849,255	Total to Date 1999/2000	\$59,119,067	1,730,188	2.93
Garnishments for Apr 2001:	\$234,586	Garnishments for Apr 2000:	\$76,720	157,866	205.77
Bankruptcy for Apr 2001:	\$6,134	Bankruptcy for Apr 2000:	\$2,702	3,432	
Occupancy for Mar 2001:	\$91,844	Occupancy for Mar 2000:	\$89,370	2,474	2.77
Occupancy Total to Date 00/01:	\$776,022	Occupancy Total to Date 99/00:	\$869,512	(93,490)	-10.75
Gross Reciepts Mar 2001	\$12,706				
Gross Receipts total to Date	\$118,573				

Report on Coastal Carolina Trail – James Rhodes/Alice Keene

Mr. James Rhodes and Alice Keene were present to discuss the Coastal Carolina Trail. Mr. Rhodes said that the Coastal Carolina Trails has received a regional award for their master plan and project. It is a regional project including three counties. Includes Stokes and Pactolus and ends in Oak City in Martin County and ends in Beaufort County. It meets a great recreational need in Pitt County. Mr. Rhodes reviewed the process that they went through to get the project to this point. They are looking for establishing funding for this trail. Ms. Keene is now

president of this project. A second walking assessment is being done, moving forward on easement agreements. They are moving forward with a five year and perpetual agreements as needed. They prefer the five year easement agreements. They are compiling a package of information for land owners. They have met with the Sheriff for security. The actual trail is covered under the County's insurance policy. Commissioner James said this is the first concern of property owners. She invited the Board to a celebration on Thursday evening, 6:30 p.m. for Stokes community project. Ms. Keene said it was a community effort.

ITEMS FOR CONSENT – Items for Consent are intended to be non-controversial and routine items. These items do not add positions or use contingency funds.

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

1. Budget Amendment – Health Dept. - \$500
2. Budget Amendment – Social Services -United Way
- Emergency Food & Shelter Grant Award - \$8,000
3. Budget Amendment – General Government
- \$15,000 – Sheriff's Dept.
4. Budget Amendment – Sheriff's Dept.
- \$35,000 – State Grant
5. Approval of Funding for FY2001-2002 Juvenile Crime
Prevention Council Programs
6. Additions to State Maintained Secondary Road System
 - a. Lakeview Drive in Lake Glenwood Subdivision
 - b. Brown Place Drive in Brown Place Subdivision
 - c. John Brown Court in Brown Place Subdivision
 - d. Johnson's Mill Drive in Brown Place Subdivision
7. Agency Representation Appointment to Committee for Employment
of People with Disabilities
8. Reappointment to Mental Health Area Board – Charles Mayo
9. Approval of Minutes for May 7, 2001
10. Adoption of Proclamation in support of International Women's
Wheelchair Basketball Challenge

1. Health Department Budget Amendments

The Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Section of the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is granting the Pitt County health Department \$500.00 to participate in a restaurant heart-health survey.

Account NO.	Title of Account	Increase	Decrease
155112-531200	Travel	500.00	
*153112-436500	DHHS Funds		500.00

2. United Way – Emergency Food & Shelter Grant Award

Pitt County Government has received notice of a grant award of \$8,000 to be used for energy assistance for eligible clients.

Account NO.	Title of Account	Increase	Decrease
162400-433065	United Way Emergency Shelter	8,000	
165488-560502	United Way Energy	8,000	

3. Budget Amendment – General Government

This is a direct cost/reimbursement for Officer's hired for contract work for events and contracted
May 21, 2001 minutes

services have exceeded budgeted projections.

Account NO.	Title of Account	Increase	Decrease
104310-512201	Contracted Salaries	15,000	
102600-444102	Sheriff Overtime Contract		15,000

4. Budget Amendment – State Grants – Sheriff’s Department

To establish budget for West Charitable Trust Grant awarded for damages to Law Enforcement Building caused by Hurricane Floyd.

Account NO.	Title of Account	Increase	Decrease
243670-436000	West Charitable Trust Grant – Non Fed Categorical	35,000	
245670-535101	West Charitable Trust Grant – Repair of Building		35,000

5. Approval of Funding for FY 2001-2002 Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Power of One	\$20,759.00
Resolve	\$62,607.00
Adolescent Outreach Services	\$88,965.00
Alternative Education	\$36,150.00
Juvenile Restitution	\$54,950.00
Psychological Services	\$ 8,000.00
Total	\$271,431.00

6. North Carolina State Department of Transportation Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System

Lakeview Drive in Lake Glenwood Subdivision
Brown Place Drive in Blown Place Subdivision
John Brown Court in Brown Place Subdivision
Johnson’s Mill Drive in Brown Place Subdivision

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), after receiving a petition requesting that a road be added to the State Maintained Secondary Road System, investigates the situation to determine if the road meets their requirements. If after this investigation is determined that the road meets certain criteria, the NCDOT district Engineer will request the County’s endorsement for the addition by way of a resolution.

7. Appointment of Taylor Lee to Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities

Ms. Doris Williford, who represents the Employment Security Commission on the committee for Employment of People with Disabilities, has resigned and requested the board appoint Taylor Lee as her replacement. He is an employee of the Employment Security Commission and has stated he would welcome the opportunity to serve.

8. Reappointment to Mental Health Area Board – Charles Mayo

Mr. Charles Mayo was reappointed to the Pitt Area Board. His term expires on March 31, 2004.

9. Minutes approved for May 7, 2001 meeting

10. Proclaim Week of May 28-June 2, 2001 as International Women's Wheelchair Basketball Week

Adopt proclamation for Walker Cup International Week of May 28-June 2, 2001.

ITEMS FOR DECISION

Presentation of Secondary Road Program – Danny Taylor

Mr. Danny Taylor reviewed the roads listed on the priority list. He stated that they have received many requests for widening some of the secondary roads and they are trying to address this matter also. He said these widening will be done within the same utility lines. Commissioner James asked about the Bud Parker Road and everyone has signed off on the right-of-way. Mr. Taylor said that project was set up to do last year and it will be done.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner James, the Board voted to approve the Secondary Road Program for Fiscal Year 2001-2002.

Map No.	Priority No.	Road Number Road Name	Length	From	To	Proposed Improvements	Est. Cost
1	40	1416 Saintsville Road	3.4	1416	1424	GDBP (TO COMPLETE FUNDING)	394,000
2	41	1920 L. Haddock Road	1.9	191	1923	GDBP (Partial Funding)	295,504
3		1200 Stantonsburg Road	4.9	1467	1206	*Widen Pavement From 20' to 24'	147,000
4		1567 Clark's Neck Road	5.2	CO. LINE	1565	*Widen Pavement from 18' to 22'	156,000
5		1777 Black-Jack	4.5	SCL Grimes	1755	*Widen Pavement	135,000
6		Grimesland Road 1756	2.7	land 1755	1777	From 18' to 22' *Widen Pavement from 16' to 20'	81,000
7		1759 Tucker Road	0.96	33	1755	*Widen Pavement from 16' to 20'	28,800
8		1726 Portertown Road	3.25	1727	2241	*Widen Pavement from 20' to 24'	97,500
9		1400 Porter Road	2.6	64	1409	*Widen Pavement From 18' to 22'	78,000
Spot Stabilization							88,638
Contingency							130,405

- Notes
1. *Widen existing pavement to improve safety
 2. Needed Right of Way exists on all roads
 3. Program subject to availability of funds & environmental review if a project is dropped for any of the reasons, alternate projects will be set up in priority order.

Presentation of draft Ambulance Franchise Ordinance and Schedule Public Hearing on Ordinance – JoAnne Burgdorff

Ms. Burgdorff supplied the Board with a draft of the Ambulance Franchise Ordinance and staff has already made some suggested changes to the ordinance. She stated a public hearing is not required. She will put it in a final form and bring back to the Board at the next meeting. Commissioner Shank said that the terms for the new members were not addressed and she suggested staggered terms for the members. Vice Chairman Bowen said someone sent him the rules and regulations of ambulance services. Ms. Burgdorff said that Pitt County is only providing the first level of requirements. Vice Chairman Bowen asked if category two would not be the one that the County is providing for the citizens under these rules. Vice Chairman Bowen said he was concerned that the County was doing something that the State says should not be done. Ms. Burgdorff said she would review the rules once he provides them to her and would confirm that the County is doing what is required.

The Need for a Community Nursing Home Advisory Committee in Pitt County – JoAnne Burgdorff

Ms. Burgdorff said one of the Legislators had called her about some complaints that they had received about care in the nursing homes in Pitt County. She was bringing this to the Board as a matter to be act on. Chairman Hammond suggested the membership be advertised. Commissioner James said this was discussed years ago and the committee has no authority at all. He asked why the committee should exist if they have no authority. Chairman Hammond said the authority is in Raleigh. Ms. Burgdorff said the purpose of this committee is to have oversight review of the nursing homes and have someone look into the nursing homes where complaints have been received. Commissioner Royal said he has received enough complaints to warrant the need for this committee. He said he is currently dealing with some problems in this area. There needs to be some regulations given to these nursing homes. Commissioner Ward said this committee will have a major responsibility because they will listen to the complaints and stay in contact with every nursing home. They would then make recommendations to the State committee.

Commissioner Ward **motioned** to move forward with appointing the Community Nursing Home Advisory Committee.

Mr. Bulow said this was brought to the Board in the past and they felt there was a lot of liability for the County without any "teeth". He said the Mid-East Commission serves as the Aging committee and they have an ombudsman who fields these complaints. There is no authority with this committee. Mr. Bulow said the previous Board was worried about liability and lawsuits. Chairman Hammond asked if the County was in violation of the General Statutes if there was not a nursing home advisory committee in Pitt County. Ms. Burgdorff stated that the Board would be in violation of the General Statutes. Commissioner Shank seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Board of Adjustment/Planning Board Payment – James Rhodes

Mr. Rhodes said the first meeting of the Board of Adjustment would be held May 22, 2001 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Auditorium. He asked the Board to come to the meeting and introduce themselves to the committee members. He said some good information would be covered at this meeting. He said any appeals or concerns would come to the Board of Adjustment as well as variances. There will be another meeting on June 26th if they agree with the date. Mr. Rhodes said the Planning Board is being compensated for their attendance. Staff has reviewed this for structure and payment. The Planning Board payment has not increased in thirty years.

Staff recommends the following:

Planning Board and Board of Adjustment
Chairman - \$35
Vice Chairman - \$30
Members - \$25

Commissioner James spoke about the boards that receive payment. He said these people are not in it for the money.

Commissioner James **motioned** not to pay the people for their service on these boards, even if they are already receiving compensation. Vice Chairman Bowen seconded the motion. Commissioner James said the City of Greenville does not pay their Board of Adjustment or their Planning Board. He said if the County is hard up for money, this little bit can be cut out. Mr. Robinson clarified that the Development Commission, Planning Board, Social Services Board, would no longer be paid based on this motion.

Vice Chairman Bowen made a **substitute motion** to table the discussion until a later time that the compensation be left at the same rate and that no new payments would be made for boards. Commissioner Shank seconded the substitute motion. The first vote on the substitute motion went as follows: Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Shank, and Commissioner Bowen were in favor of the substitute motion. Opposed to the substitute motion were: Commissioner Owens, Commissioner James, Chairman Hammond, and Commissioner Coulson. Commissioner Royal did not vote which caused a four to four vote. Ms. Burgdorff stated that all nine commissioners are required to vote unless excused from voting because of a conflict of interest. A revote was called. In favor of the substitute motion were: Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Shank and Commissioner Bowen. Opposed to the substitute motion were: Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Royal, Commissioner Owens, Chairman Hammond, Commissioner Coulson and Commissioner James. The substitute motion failed with a three to six vote.

Commissioner James restated his **motion** that everyone be treated the same, that the three boards that are being paid would no longer be paid and no new boards or committees would be compensated. Vice Chairman Bowen seconded the motion.

Commissioner Coulson stated that nothing has been done in this area for twenty years. Mr. Rhodes said this minimum payment for the Board of Adjustment might cover the cost of mileage and a meal on the way to the meeting. Commissioner James said he supported paying the mileage. Chairman Hammond said he did not want to take anything from the people.

Chairman Hammond called for a vote on Commissioner James' motion. In favor of the motion were: Commissioner James, Vice Chairman Bowen, and Commissioner Ward. Opposed to the motion were: Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Coulson, Commissioner Shank, Chairman Hammond, Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Royal. The motion failed with a three to six vote.

Commissioner Coulson **motioned** to accept the staff's recommendation. Chairman Hammond seconded the motion. In favor of the motion were: Commissioner Coulson, Chairman Hammond and Commissioner Johnson. Opposed to the motion were: Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Shank, Chairman Hammond, Commissioner Bowen, Commissioner Owens and Commissioner Royal.

Mr. Robinson stated that the way he understood the Board's action was that no compensation would be paid to the Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board's compensation would remain at the same rate.

Budget Amendment – General Government - \$10,000 – Melonie Bryan

Ms. Bryan stated that this budget amendment is needed to use contingency in the Medical Examiner's budget.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner James, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following budget amendment.

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
104360 539921	Autopsy	10,000	
109910 599100	Contingency		10,000

Appointment to the Board of Health (at-large position) – Susan Banks

Commissioner Shank nominated Judith Kuykendall, who has retired from Pitt Community College. Vice Chairman Bowen nominated Porter Stokes who is an appraiser in Greenville.

Commissioner James **motioned** to close the nominations. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Chairman Hammond called for a vote on Porter Stokes. Vice Chairman Bowen, Commissioner James, and Commissioner Coulson voted for Porter Stokes. Chairman Hammond called for a vote on Judith Kuykendall. Voting for Judith Kuykendall were Commissioner Shank, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Royal, Chairman Hammond, and Commissioner Ward. Mr. Judith Kuykendall was appointed to the Board of Health as an at-large member to replace Mavis Williams. Her term will expire April 2004.

NC Department of Transportation

Mr. Danny Taylor reported that eight to nine projects have been started by the Department of Transportation. The Bud Parker Road was started late and has not been completed. He reviewed a number of roads that were currently under construction. WC Cobb and Sycamore Road are under construction as well as others. He reviewed several roads that have not been started. He said they are not caught up from Hurricane Floyd. He said these roads were set up last year as a goal and the money goes forward to the next year. He said they should be able to get caught up this year since with most of their projects for widening roads. Mr. Collice Moore said that unless they are given the right of way they can not do the roads. He stated that he will be investigating what the problem is with getting these projects completed.

PREVIEW OF PRELIMINARY 2001-2002 ANNUAL COUNTY BUDGET

Mr. Robinson started his presentation. Chairman Hammond asked to have this presentation tomorrow. The consensus was to move forward with the budget presentation. He stated that this is a preliminary budget and probably the most challenging budget he has had to do in his career.

National, State and local economies are down. Five years out from last revaluation cycle. Assessments on property are down on businesses and real property. Pitt County is a fast growing county and has grown 24% in the last ten years. The State projected a 20% growth rate for Pitt County in the next ten years. It costs \$1.65 in services for every \$1 in residential services. It takes a house valued at \$200,000 just to cover \$1,070 County per pupil current expense allocation to public schools. Residential growth is not covering the expense of covering the services. Pitt County is a low wealth county with a high poverty rate which creates a greater need for services . Pitt County ranks 64th out of 100 counties in per capita.

Medicaid is projected to go up \$1 million or 23%. Foster Care has gone up 183% or \$275,000 in one year. Health Insurance has increased 19.6% or \$666,528. The County has established a vision to be “The Best in the East, A Leader in the State”.

Facts in Manager's Report

At the time of department budget submittals, the budget was \$7 million out of balance. Twenty-five new positions were requested. They worked to get those figures down. The Overall preliminary budget contains a 1.33% increase from current year:

From: \$163,174,974
To: \$165,339,264

The General Fund projects an increase of 4.9%:
From: \$72,348,010
To: \$75,895,692
Additional Revenue needed to balance the budget: \$2,030,878

1 cent on the tax rate generates about \$590,000
An equivalent of 3.5 cent on the property tax is needed to balance the budget.

Included in the budget was a 2% cost of living adjustment (\$418,500) for employees which will not cover the family health insurance for some employees.
Out of 25 positions requested, only 8.75 are in the preliminary budget, most are covered by offsetting revenue or grants.

The County Manager stated his objectives as:

- ? Implement the Board's priorities
- ? Maintain the current levels of service in the most cost efficient manner
- ? Fund required Federal and State mandates

He stated that he did not believe that these objectives could be achieved with the current level of available revenue. In the County, the demand for government services increases when the economy is down. He stated there are four large expenditures that drive most of the preliminary budget increases. Those items are:

Education Compact	\$1,600,000
Medicaid	999,964
Phase II	810,000
Courthouse Debt	
Health Insurance	<u>666,528</u>
Total	\$4,076,492

He stated if you take those four items away, this year's budget is \$528,810 less than the previous year's budget. He reviewed the top six Commissioners' Priorities that were determined earlier this year. A short range goals and objectives were included in the budget notebook. Mr. Robinson said the major budget objectives proposed in next year's budget is to implement the Board's priorities and to maintain progress in meeting the ongoing needs of the citizens.

Major Budget Objectives

General Government

- ? Establish government/education TV channel
- ? Continue to seek, retain, and attract quality workforce by revising personnel ordinance, revising personnel ordinance, revising performance appraisal system, training and implementation of final phase of pay classification plan
- ? Seek to fully integrate total quality management principles into County operations
- ? Undertake required redistricting of County Commissioner districts
- ? Fund and begin renovation on Phase II Courthouse
- ? Continue flood recovery activities

Culture & Recreation

- ? Seek funding for Community Schools & Recreation Program site purchase and development
- ? Begin implementation of Rails to Trails recreation plan

Public Safety

- ? Develop Master Emergency Medical Services Plan and begin implementation
- ? Bid 800 MHz public safety/emergency radio communications system and begin phased implementation
- ? Work with community college to seek funding and begin development of firing range/defensive driving course
- ? Continue to implement hazard mitigation buyout program
- ? Work with State to update flood plain maps

Economic & Physical Development

- ? Update Comprehensive Development Plan
- ? Develop Coordinated Permitting System
- ? Continue work to develop master plan for supply, distribution, treatment and management of countywide water and sewer system
- ? Determine site and seek funding to purchase or option land for Phase I bio-medical technology park
- ? Continue work with East Carolina University, Pitt County Schools, and City of Greenville to develop science center for research, business and education

Environmental

- ? Work to develop a perpetual drainage plan including beaver management
- ? Enhance County efforts to increase recycling and reduce littering along roadways

Human Services

- ? Continue to work with Pitt County Mental Health to stabilize the agency, continue to improve collections, and to promote clinical excellence
- ? Work to resolve Social Services space needs

Education

- ? Continue to fund Education Compact
- ? Work with Public Schools to refine system's 10-year capital needs
- ? Work with Community College to fund bond improvements and phase in required County matching funds

Concerns

- Cut funding to many outside agencies
- Cut Industrial Development funding from .02 cents to 0.175 cents
- Does not include funding for DSS or Administrative space needs
- Does not provide funding for new Animal Shelter
- Assumes State will not cut \$1,630,000 in reimbursement for Inventory Tax
- Medicaid & Health Insurance are projected to have double digit increases again next year
- Cannot maintain current levels of service or made progress toward priorities without additional revenue**

He asked the Board to review the preliminary budget.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- ? Commissioner Coulson asked to bring up designated smoking areas in the Courthouse. He would like to instruct the Manager to

Commissioner Coulson **motioned** to instruct the Manager to identify designated smoking areas in the Courthouse. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Bowen offered a **substitute motion** to table this item until the Sheriff could make a recommendation at the next Board meeting. Commissioner James seconded the motion. In favor of the motion were: Commissioner James, Vice Chairman Bowen, and Commissioner

Owens. Opposed to the motion were: Commissioner Coulson, Commissioner Shank, Commissioner Ward, Chairman Hammond, Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Royal. The substitute motion failed with a three to six vote. Chairman Hammond called for a vote on Commissioner Coulson's original motion to identify designated smoking areas in the courthouse. In favor were: Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Coulson, Commissioner Royal, Chairman Hammond, Commissioner Shank, and Commissioner Johnson. Opposed were: Commissioner Owens, Commissioner James, and Commissioner Bowen. The motion passed to instruct the Manager to identify designated smoking areas in the Courthouse.

? Vice Chairman Bowen said that the consultant on the 800 trunking had stated that he had assisted Onslow County with the implementation of an 800 trunking system. However, he stated that since then, he found out that the consultant did not assist Onslow County but assisted the Town of Jacksonville with the 800 trunking system. He stated concerns about the consultant providing incorrect information. Mr. Bulow said the consultant was hired to provide technical expertise about the radio communications for Pitt County. Commissioner Ward questioned the motion that the Board made at the previous meeting and stated concern that this would hold up the continued work of the consultant. She asked if the motion had stopped the consultant's work on this process. Staff indicated that the consultant's work on the 800 trunking system had been stopped. Commissioner Coulson said this is an opportunity for this Board to show leadership and he supported Commissioner Ward's comments. Commissioner James said Pitt County had been hurt by the flood but this Board is continuing to talk about spending money. He said the Board needs to look at the future and what the County can afford. He said the next three days of budget meetings will tell the story. Commissioner Shank agreed with Commissioner Coulson and Commissioner Ward's comments about the 800 trunking system. She said she wants continued information from the consultant. Mr. Bulow said the Board tabled action on further movement on this item at the last Board meeting. Commissioner Ward said they are not looking to spend \$12 million. She said she is just asking that the consultant be allowed to finish the job he was contracted to provide for Pitt County.

Commissioner Ward **motioned** to allow the Radio Communications Consultant to continue on with the planning that he was contracted to do on the 800 trunking system, so the County can eventually make a decision on the radio communications system. Commissioner Shank seconded the motion. Mr. Bulow explained what services the consultant had been hired to provide and stated that the motion at the last meeting had brought this process to a halt.

Vice Chairman Bowen asked if the man has been paid? Mr. Bulow said he has been paid for the first phase and the County would have to pay for future services provided by the consultant. Chairman Hammond discussed someone he had spoken with in New Hanover County where they used a vendor for these services. Mr. Robinson addressed that this matter and stated that he had talked with someone in New Hanover County and that the vendor actually wrote the specifications for the equipment and it had ended up being a problem.

Mr. Bulow said that staff met and decided that a consultant was the way to go because they wanted a system that would not be too expensive, would meet the requirements identified and there was no one on staff who could provide this expertise. Mr. Bulow stated that this system can not be bought and figured by July 1 so the Board does not have to rush for a decision in relation to setting the tax rate. The intent was to pay for this system with 911 fees, not with the property tax. In favor of this motion were: Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Shank, Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Royal, and Commissioner Coulson. Opposed to this motion were: Commissioner James, Vice Chairman Bowen, and Chairman Hammond. The motion passed with a six to three vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney, announced that the Board was going into closed session under G. S. 143-318.11(a)3 and 6 to discuss privilege information and personnel matters.

UPON MOTION by Vice Chairman Bowen, seconded by Commissioner James, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Royal, the Board voted unanimously to return to open session.

OPEN SESSION

Property Matters

Ms. Burgdorff presented the Board with a bid for property on 515 Sheppard Street, Tax Parcel No. 4681, for \$4,140 which was acquired through the foreclosure process. She stated that taxes owed to Pitt County and the City of Greenville as of May 14, 2001 was \$4,864.85.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Coulson, the Board voted eight to one to accept the offer for property on 515 Sheppard Street in the amount of \$4,140 as long as there is no upset bid. Commissioner Owens opposed the motion.

ADJOURN

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Royal, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board