

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 20, 2001 MINUTES**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, August 20, 2001, at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

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

Staff present:

Susan Banks, Clerk to the Board
Melonie Bryan, Director of Financial Services
John Bulow, Assistant County Manager
Phil Dickerson, County Engineer
Edward Garrison, Social Services Director
Arlen Holt, PIO and Cable Coordinator
Bobby Joyner, EMS Director
Mac Manning, Sheriff
Jeff Niebauer, Tax Collector
James Rhodes, Planning Director
Tom Robinson, County Manager
Joel Scales, Solid Waste Coordinator

Call to Order

Chairman Hammond called the meeting to order and welcomed all who were present.

Invocation and Pledge

The invocation was offered by Commissioner Royal.
The Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag was led by Commissioner Shank.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Bowen asked to add the Ayden Planning Board appointment under items for decision.

**Motion to approve the agenda as amended made by Commissioner Randy Royal.
Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Glenn Bowen.**

Vote Record:

Tom Coulson	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes

Randy Royal	Yes
David Hammond	Yes
Glenn Bowen	Yes
Terry Shank	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
Tom Johnson	Yes
Mark Owens	Yes

Total Yes Votes: 9

Total No Votes: 0

Motion Passed

Public Hearings

New Franchise Agreement with Adelpia Cable - Arlen Holt

- Staff Comments
- Open Hearing
- Close Hearing
- Consider Action

In accordance with the Pitt County Communications Ordinance, the Board of Commissioners seeks public input concerning the issuance of a new cable television franchise agreement with Adelpia Communications. Adelpia Communications serves eastern Pitt County and Falkland through a franchise agreement they purchased in 1998.

The proposed new franchise agreement includes a system infrastructure upgrade, interconnection with Cox Communications to receive Pitt County's channel within 12 months, full adherence to the Pitt County Communications Ordinance, a \$3,000 PEG Access grant.

As of August 14, 2001, Adelpia had not completed all application procedures, although a verbal agreement to all points had been reached. We anticipate all procedures will be completed soon, possibly prior to the actual meeting date. Therefore, the Board is asked to take no action until all application steps have been finalized.

Mr. Holt provided a map of the service area of Adelpia Cable. Eastern Pitt County, Simpson and Grimesland and some of Eastern Pines area are served by Adelpia Cable. Adelpia Cable is one of four cable companies in Pitt County. They bought the system from Frontiervision. They are the third largest of the cable companies. The franchise agreement has been in active negotiations for over two years. This is the first franchise issued since 1994. This franchise agreement would be for twelve years. They will provide a channel for Pitt County and support with \$3,000 in equipment expenses for the channel. They will comply with the Communications Ordinance. They have agreed to expanding into areas of twenty dwelling units per mile within one mile from their service district. They have agreed to upgrade their system within twelve months.

Steve Pollock was present to speak on behalf of Adelpia Cable. Chairman Hammond commented on how other counties can receive the Board meeting telecast but there are people in Pitt County that cannot receive the telecast. Commissioner Ward asked about people with satellite systems. Adelpia is the only cable company that does not show the Board of County Commissioners' meeting in Pitt County. They will have interconnectivity within the next twelve months. Commissioner James said he would like to see the goal be fifteen homes per mile versus twenty homes per mile so more people can be covered by cable services. Commissioner James expressed concern over the requirements. Mr. Holt said it would not be fair to make different requirements for each company. Commissioner James said he felt all the cable companies should provide cable to more of the residents in the County. He said there are

pockets of growth in the County that are not being served. Mr. Holt said he and Mrs. JoAnne Burgdorff have worked with Adelphia for two years trying to get this agreement settled. Commissioner James said if the company waits too long the competition will get stronger. Mr. Hold said that Adelphia worked hard to get a longer term or automatic renewal clause in their contract. Commissioner Owens asked about the franchise fees. Mr. Holt said they are paying \$1500 - \$2000 in franchise fees annually. If their system grows, they will pay more. Chairman Hammond listed numerous counties that are receiving this telecast.

Mr. Steve Polleck stated Mr. Holt was a tough negotiator. He said they had inherited several mismanaged cable systems that had not had proper attention to their systems. The local office is in Rocky Mount. They also serve the Town of Fountain and they have asked specifically for this telecast. They are rebuilding their system to 750 megahertz. They are committing to twenty homes per mile and will be competing with satellite dishes. He said if there is a way to speed up the process, they will. They are doing digital cable and cable to modems. They can go into low density areas and will have shared cost on installation. It is written in the franchise agreement. Commissioner Royal asked about the costs and services.

Chairman Hammond opened the meeting for public comments. No one came forward so Chairman Hammond closed the public hearing.

No action was taken at this time on the franchise agreement.

Adoption of Resolution - Certificates of Participation - Melonie Bryan

As we discussed at the March Capital Improvements Workshop, during budget deliberations and at the award of bids on June 18, the County is currently completing the application process with the Local Government Commission to issue Certificates of Participation.

The major element of the financing package is the final renovations at the Courthouse. Additionally, we have been reviewing the County's outstanding bonds to determine if it is advantageous to refinance for better rates. At present, it appears that there are savings to be had on our 1992 and 1997 issues. As we get closer to market date, we will review and determine which certificates to refund. The final possible component of the package would be funding for equipment at the new high school. Financial Services is currently reviewing funding estimates from the State that had previously been identified for this purpose. As with other State revenues, we have seen a decline in availability and are reviewing our options.

The purpose of this public hearing is to allow for public comment. After the hearing, staff asks that the Board adopt the enclosed resolution. This action will establish the maximum amount the County can borrow.

At present, the maximum borrowing would be \$22,500,000 with that total distributed as follows:

- \$8,600,000 Courthouse renovations and issuance fees
 - \$6,145,000 Refunding of balance of 1992 debt for better rates
(approximately 3% savings)*
 - \$1,000,000 School equipment
 - \$6,755,000 Refunding of a portion of 1997A debt for better rates
(approximately 3% savings)*
- *(Debt service savings of \$15,000-\$18, 000/per year for next 15 years
or ~\$225,000 dollars)

Prior to issuance of the certificates, we will return to the Board at the September 17, 2001 meeting to approve the final amount.

Ms. Bryan said they are attempting to do several things which will be determined on September 17th. In March, a capital improvement plan was reviewed with the Board. Bids have been awarded on the Courthouse Phase II project. In March, the Board reviewed the existing debt for the County. The rates have been reduced. Ms. Bryan stated the 1992 indebtedness may be refinanced and a portion of 1997-A (elementary school on County Home Road) may also be considered for refinancing. The last window is the possibility to finance equipment for the new high school. She said she is currently working with the State on anticipating the future funds for schools. She will have the information for presentation for the September 17th Board meeting. The four-story annex was funded with Certificates of Participation and it makes sense to use the same source. She said the County does not have the funds to make this debt payment without some new funds being generated. Commissioner Owens asked how much is needed for school equipment. Ms. Bryan said \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 would be needed for school equipment and furniture. Commissioner Owens asked for a breakdown of fees on the underwriters and involved parties to be presented at the next Board meeting. Commissioner James said this would make the County owe over \$100 million. He said \$48 million was borrowed for the Board of Education.

Ms. Bryan said February of 1999 the Board conceptually approved \$48 million for school projects. The \$28 million was issued in the fall of 2000 for the new high school and approximately \$10 million was issued in the spring of 2000 for Pactolus and Whitfield. The final \$10 million had been earmarked for an elementary school on Forlines Road, to date the site has been purchased. Commissioner James asked how much was being spent on the new school because he had heard about \$38 million had been spent. Ms. Bryan said she put the extra million dollars in the financing package in case the State does not come back with enough funds for the furniture and equipment. She said the budget for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 does not include enough funds for the schools equipment if the State projections are not met. Commissioner James spoke to the problems in the economy and said the Board needs to wait and see what happens. Commissioner James asked about the PRIDE corporation. Ms. Bryan explained the need for the PRIDE corporation which is a conduit used to do Certificates of Participation.

Commissioner James asked Ms. Burgdorff about the legality of this process. Ms. Bryan said there is also a supplemental document because of the previous construction project for the Courthouse. Ms. Burgdorff said the County has a Bond Attorney that prepares these documents and she has great confidence in the County's bond counsel. Mr. Robinson said when the first phase was done, the second phase was anticipated and planned for and there would be a cost savings to use the same documents and bond counsel. Ms. Bryan stated this could lead to the need for a one-cent tax increase. Commissioner James asked about the statement concerning a possible tax increase due to this construction and financing. He said the Board should do only what the County can afford to do and borrowing money is going to get the County in trouble in the future. Commissioner Bowen asked about the State funds. Ms. Bryan said she wanted to create the potential to borrow the money, in case the State does not forward the funds to the County. She said the Board would establish the final amount for the financing at the September 17th Board meeting. She said the State distributes funds as they collect the funds. The County's portion is based on their actual collections. If the State's collections are down, then what they give the counties will be down also. School equipment includes furniture and fixtures for the new school. Ms. Bryan stated that the State ADM funds are reduced. Commissioner Bowen said that if the Board takes this back up action, it will send a message to Raleigh, saying that if they cannot supply the funds, then the County will supply them. Commissioner Coulson asked why the schools equipment was not included in the original plans. Mr. Robinson said that the life span of furniture is not that long so they did not want to put it in the long term financing. There is property north of the river that could be used for collateral. Commissioner Coulson said that with the history of North Carolina, the County would be smart if it did not play on the State funds and do this in arrears. Ms. Bryan said that would be great if it could be done. Commissioner Coulson said he would like to see the County work towards this goal. Ms. Bryan said that she has a twenty-year spreadsheet on capital debt which is available for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Coulson said almost \$15 million or about two-thirds of the money is not new money. Commissioners discussed the figures.

Chairman Hammond opened the public hearing.

-Nancy Colville stated her concerns about city and county taxes. She said this hearing is a formality. First, in March, it was capital improvement for courthouse. In June, no one said that the debt payment would cost an additional \$500,000 per year. The County Manager and Finance Officer said they would have to have the funds generated. She said it would cost another cent on the tax rate to take care of the debt service payment. She spoke about additional funds needed for equipment for the new school. The Board gave the Schools the investments from the compact for them to use for their expenses. She asked about the analysis of comparing Certificates of Participation to Bonds in cost. She said if the Bond Counsel comes here, it will cost the County. She raised questions concerning the refinancing. She said this is a done deal but the truth needs to be told about there being a property tax increase next year for this project. She said the project is being misrepresented to the people.

Chairman Hammond asked for others who wished to speak. No one else came forward.

Motion to adopt the RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS REGARDING THE FINANCING OF CERTAIN PUBLIC FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND THE REFINANCING OF PRIOR INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENTS PURSUANT TO AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT AND REQUESTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE FINANCING ARRANGEMENT.

**Motion made by Commissioner Mark Owens.
Motion seconded by Commissioner Beth Ward.**

Vote Record:

Tom Coulson	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Randy Royal	Yes
David Hammond	No
Terry Shank	Yes
Tom Johnson	Yes
Mark Owens	Yes
Glenn Bowen	No
Eugene James	No

Total Yes Votes: 6

Total No Votes: 3

Motion Passed.

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the County of Pitt, North Carolina, was held in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, Greenville, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting, at 9:00 a.m. on August 20, 2001.

Present: Chairman David Hammond, presiding, and Commissioners Glenn Bowen, Tom Coulson, M. Theresa Shank, Mark W. Owens, Jr., Beth Ward, Randy Royal, Eugene James and Tom H. Johnson, Sr.

Absent: _____

Also Present: Tom Robinson, County Manager, Melonie Bryan, Director of Financial Services, JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney and Susan J. Banks, Clerk to the Board.

* * * * *

The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) for the County of Pitt, North Carolina (the “County”) announced that this was the hour and day of the public hearing on a proposed supplemental installment financing agreement (the “Agreement”) to be entered into by the County pursuant to Section 160A-20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, as amended, in a principal amount not to exceed \$22,500,000, for the purpose of financing all or a portion of the cost of (a) refunding all of the outstanding \$6,145,000 County of Pitt, North Carolina Certificates of Participation, Series 1992, the proceeds of which were used to finance the cost of constructing and equipping new mental health and public health centers and three group homes to house various mental health programs (the “1992 Certificates”), (b) refunding a portion of the outstanding \$18,665,000 County of Pitt, North Carolina Certificates of Participation (Pitt County Public Facilities Project), Series 1997A, the proceeds of which were used to finance the costs of renovations to the County courthouse, the construction and equipping of a judicial annex to the County courthouse and an elementary school and the acquisition of two buildings to be used as County administrative offices (the “1997A Certificates”)

(the refunding of the 1992 Certificates and the 1997A Certificates being hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Refundings”), (c) paying the cost of further renovations to the County courthouse and the acquisition of certain school equipment (the “2001 Project”).

The Chairman acknowledged due publication of the notice of public hearing in a newspaper with a general circulation in said County as required by Section 160A-20(g) of the General Statutes of North Carolina and directed the Clerk to the Board to attach the affidavit showing publication in said paper on a date at least ten days prior to the date hereof as Exhibit A hereto.

The Chairman then announced that the Board of Commissioners would immediately hear anyone who might wish to be heard on the advisability of the 2001 Project, the Refundings and the Agreement as so described.

A list of all persons making comments and a summary of such comments are attached as Exhibit B.

The public hearing was closed.

All statements and comments by participants of the public hearing were duly considered by the Board of Commissioners.

Thereupon, Melonie Bryan, Director of Financial Services introduced the following resolution the title of which was read and copies of which had been previously distributed to each Commissioner:

RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS REGARDING THE FINANCING OF CERTAIN PUBLIC FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND THE REFINANCING OF PRIOR INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENTS PURSUANT TO AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT AND REQUESTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE FINANCING ARRANGEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) for the County of Pitt, North Carolina (the “County”) as follows:

Section 1. The Board does hereby find and determine as follows:

(a) There exists in the County a need to finance the cost of various renovations to the County courthouse and certain school equipment (the “2001 Project”) to enable the County to perform its obligations with respect to the funding of capital improvements.

(b) Based on current interest rates, the Board of Commissioners has determined that it is economically feasible to provide for the refunding all of the outstanding \$6,145,000 County of Pitt, North Carolina Certificates of Participation, Series 1992, the proceeds of which were used to finance the cost of constructing and equipping new mental health and public health centers and three group homes to house various mental health programs (the “1992 Certificates”) and a portion of the outstanding \$18,665,000 County of Pitt, North Carolina Certificates of Participation (Pitt County Public Facilities Project), Series 1997A, the proceeds of which were used to finance the costs of renovations to the County courthouse, the construction and equipping of a judicial annex to the County courthouse and an elementary school and the acquisition of two buildings to be used as County administrative offices (the “1997A Certificates”) (the refunding of the 1992 Certificates and the 1997A Certificates being hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Refundings”) in order to achieve savings on installment payments due under prior installment financing agreements entered into by the County.

(c) The County has heretofore entered into an Installment Financing Agreement, dated as of May 1, 1997 (the “Agreement”), between the County and Pitt Regional Infrastructure Development Effort, Inc. (the “Corporation”).

(d) After due consideration, the County has determined to enter into a First Supplemental Installment Financing Agreement (the “First Supplemental Agreement”) with the Corporation to supplement and amend the Agreement to provide for an advancement thereunder in a principal amount not to exceed \$22,500,000 to (a) refund all of the outstanding 1992 Certificates, (b) refund a portion of the outstanding 1997A Certificates, (c) pay the costs of the 2001 Project and (d) pay certain other costs associated with the financing.

(e) The Corporation will advance to the County amounts sufficient to pay the costs specified in subsection (d) of this Section, and the County will repay the advancement in installments, with interest (the “Installment Payments”).

(f) In order to secure its obligations under the Agreement, the County has heretofore executed and delivered a Deed of Trust, dated as of May 1, 1997, granting a first lien of record on the site of the County courthouse, the judicial annex and the elementary school financed with the proceeds of the 1997A Certificates, together with all improvements and fixtures located or to be located thereon.

(g) In order to provide the amount of the advance, the Corporation will enter into a First Supplemental Trust Agreement with First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company, as trustee (the “Trustee”), supplementing and amending the Trust Agreement, dated as of May 1, 1997, between the Corporation and the Trustee, pursuant to which the Corporation will execute and deliver certificates of participation (the “2001 Certificates”) evidencing proportionate and undivided interests in the right to receive the Installment Payments under the Agreement, as amended by the First Supplemental Agreement.

(h) It is in the best interests of the County to enter into the First Supplemental Agreement in that such transaction will result in providing financing for the 2001 Project and the Refundings in an efficient and cost effective manner.

(i) Entering into the First Supplemental Agreement is preferable to a general obligation bond and revenue bond issue in that (i) the County does not have sufficient constitutional authority to issue non-voted general obligation bonds pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of the North Carolina Constitution because the County has not retired a sufficient amount of debt in the preceding fiscal year to issue a sufficient amount of general obligation bonds for the 2001 Project without an election; (ii) the nature of the 2001 Project and the facilities financed with the 1992 Certificates and the 1997A Certificates is such that they are not “revenue bond projects” within the meaning of The State and Local Government Revenue Bond Act; (iii) the cost of the 2001 Project exceeds the amount to be prudently provided from currently available appropriations and unappropriated fund balances; (iv) the circumstances existing require that funds be available to commence construction of the 2001 Project as soon as practicable and the time required for holding an election for the issuance of voted general obligation bonds pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of the North Carolina Constitution and the Local Government Bond Act will delay the commencement of construction of the 2001 Project by several months; (v) the County does not have sufficient authority to issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of accomplishing the Refundings and (vi) there can be no assurances that the 2001 Project will be approved by the voters and the necessity of such 2001 Project dictates that the 2001 Project be financed by a method that assures that such 2001 Project will be constructed in an expedient manner.

(j) The Board has compared the cost of the financing described above against the financing of the 2001 Project through the issuance of general obligation bonds of the County, which comparison indicates that the cost of the alternative means of financing compared with the issuance of general obligation bonds is reasonably comparable and acceptable to the Board.

(k) Special counsel to the County will render an opinion to the effect that the proposed undertaking as described above is authorized by law and is a purpose for which public funds may be expended pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina.

(l) The debt management policies of the County have been carried out in strict compliance with law, and the County is not in default under any obligation for repayment of borrowed money.

(m) Any anticipated tax rate increase necessary to pay the Installment Payments is reasonable and not excessive.

Section 2. The Board hereby approves the filing of an application with the Local Government Commission for approval of the First Supplemental Agreement and requests the Local Government Commission to approve the First Supplemental Agreement and the proposed financing in connection therewith.

Section 3. The Board hereby authorizes the distribution of a Preliminary Official Statement by the underwriter in connection with the offering and sale of the 2001 Certificates in a form approved by the Director of Financial Services of the County.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Upon motion of Commissioner Mark W. Owens, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Beth Ward, the foregoing resolution entitled "RESOLUTION MAKING CERTAIN

FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS REGARDING THE FINANCING OF CERTAIN PUBLIC FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT AND THE REFINANCING OF PRIOR INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENTS PURSUANT TO AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING AGREEMENT AND REQUESTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE FINANCING ARRANGEMENT” was passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Tom Coulson, M. Theresa Shank, Mark W. Owens, Jr., Beth Ward, Randy Royal, and Tom H. Johnson, Sr.

Noes: Chairman David Hammond, presiding, and Commissioners Eugene James and Glenn Bowen.

* * * * *

I, Susan J. Banks, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners for the County of Pitt, North Carolina, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true copy of so much of the proceedings of said Board at a regular meeting held on August 20, 2001, as it relates in any way to the holding of a public hearing on a proposed supplemental installment financing agreement and the passage of a resolution regarding such proposed installment financing agreement and that said proceedings are recorded in Minute Book No. ____ of the minutes of said Board.

I DO HEREBY FURTHER CERTIFY that a schedule, stating that the regular meetings of said Board are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners’ Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 West Fifth

Street, Greenville, North Carolina, was on file with me for a least seven calendar days prior to said meeting, all in accordance with G.S. 143-318.12.

WITNESS my hand and the corporate seal of said County this 20th day of August, 2001.

Clerk to the Board

[SEAL]

Public Addresses to the Board

- Tony Moore, Winterville Town Council, said he was representing the residents in Winterville. He said Winterville is doubling in size. He said the redistricting plans are for ten years and their population will have changed significantly. He stated that Mark Owens and Glenn Bowen will represent Winterville on the Board of Commissioners with this new plan but neither will live in or close to Winterville. The new high school in the extraterritorial jurisdiction will bring new residents and there are over 200 homes planned for that area. He asked the Board to think and plan carefully. He said both of their current commissioners live in Greenville. He invited everyone to the Winterville Watermelon Festival this weekend.

-Nancy Colville said she was wearing her City of Greenville hat today. She spoke about repealing the rescue tax and then borrowing from fund balance. She said her county taxes are in the general fund for the County's emergency services and the city residents pay for their own rescue services. The County residents need to pay for their own rescue services also. She asked where the Attorney and Assistant County Manager were during this process. She asked why the Board needed an attorney if they can't keep the County straight and the Assistant County Manager was in charge of the project.

Items for Report

Manager's Report - Tom B. Robinson

ECVC Banquet, November 1st, let Ms. Banks know if you wish to attend
Metropolitan Planning Organization is hosting three Open House Information
Sessions on Transportation Around the Greenville Urban Area - 4pm - 7pm
- Tuesday, August 28 - Pitt County Agricultural Building
- Wednesday, August 29 - Winterville Town Hall
- Thursday, August 30 - Sheppard Memorial Library
Board Meeting Schedule for September - One meeting in September on the 17th
Other Matters as needed

Commissioner Bowen expressed a concern about the Board meeting only once in September due to the Labor Day Holiday. Mr. Robinson said that the one meeting in the month

does put additional pressure on the staff but it is a Board decision and the calendar was adopted at the beginning of the year.

Motion to hold a regular meeting on Tuesday following the Labor Day Holiday.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Glenn Bowen.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.

Vote Record:

Glenn Bowen	Yes
Terry Shank	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
David Hammond	No
Randy Royal	No
Tom Johnson	No
Beth Ward	No
Mark Owens	No
Tom Coulson	No

Total Yes Votes: 3

Total No Votes: 6

Motion Failed.

Monthly Tax Collections Report - June 2001 Collections and FY 2000-01 Annual Settlement - Jeff Niebauer

SUMMARY OF 2000/2001 INFORMATION: SUMMARY OF 1999/2000 FOR COMPARISON:

Tax collection activity Pitt County:		Difference	% Diff
Total June 2001 Collections: \$660,960	Total June 2000 Collections \$603,161	57,799	9.58
Total to Date 2000/2001: \$42,469,858	Total to Date 1999/2000 \$41,302,019	1,167,839	2.83
Pitt County Levy:			
June 2001 Levy: \$42,093,619	June 2000 Levy : \$40,491,110	1,602,509	3.96
June 2001 Percent Collected: 95.06	June 2000 Percent Collected: 94.93		
Original Levy 97.30	Original Levy 97.00		
Supplemental & Vehicle 85.4	Supplemental & Vehicle 84.6		
Total collection activity all units including Pitt County:			
Total June 2001 Collections: \$1,016,729	Total June 2000 Collections: \$916,708	100,021	10.91
Total to Date 2000/2001: \$62,998,718	Total to Date 1999/2000 \$60,847,421	2,151,297	3.54
Garnishments for June 2001: \$186,434	Garnishments for June 2000: \$118,737	67,697	57.01
Bankruptcy for June 2001: \$4,544	Bankruptcy for June 2000: \$8,003	(3,459)	
Occupancy for May 2001: \$102,288	Occupancy for May, 2000: \$101,746	542	0.53
Occupancy Total to Date 00/01: \$961,035	Occupancy Total to Date 99/00: \$1,064,689 (103,654)		-9.74
Gross Receipts May 2001 \$14,689			
Gross Receipts total to Date: \$145,920			

Annual Tax Settlement
Total Amount Levied
Total Discount

2000/2001
\$ 42,093,618.82
\$ 307,446.81

Total Collected / Released	\$ 40,014,415.45
Total Outstanding Receivable	\$ 2,079,203.37

Motion made by Commissioner Beth Ward to accept the Annual Tax Settlement Report for Fiscal Year 2000/2001. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.

Vote Record:	
Tom Coulson	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Randy Royal	Yes
David Hammond	Yes
Glenn Bowen	Yes
Terry Shank	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
Tom Johnson	Yes
Mark Owens	Yes

Total Yes Votes: 9
Total No Votes: 0
Motion Passed.

Monthly Tax Collection Report - July 2001 Collections - Jeff Niebauer

Tax collection activity Pitt County:			Difference	% Diff
Total July 2001 Collections: \$1,038,799	Total July 2000 Collections: \$714,346		324,453	45.42
Total to Date 2001/2002: \$1,038,799	Total to Date 2000/2001 \$1,788,464		(749,665)	-41.92

Pitt County Levy:

July 2001 Levy: \$37,448,248	July 2000 Levy :	\$36,316,088	1,132,160	3.12
July 2001 Percent Collected: Original Levy	2.93 1.35	July 2000 Percent Collected: Original Levy		4.22 0.50
Supplemental & Vehicle	47.8	Supplemental & Vehicle		67.0

Total collection activity all units including Pitt County:

Total July 2001 Collections: \$1,575,174	Total July 2000 Collections: \$1,097,592	477,582	43.51
Total to Date 2001/2002: \$1,575,174	Total to Date 2000/2001 \$2,171,709	(596,535)	-27.47

Garnishments for July 2001: \$106,572	Garnishments for July 2000: \$121,448	(14,876)	-12.25
Bankruptcy for July 2001: \$3,345	Bankruptcy for July 2000: \$1,342	2,003	
Occupancy for June 2001: \$98,831	Occupancy for June. 2000: \$104,909	(6,078)	-5.79
Occupancy Total to Date 00/01:\$1,059,866	Occupancy Total to Date 99/00:\$1,169,298	(109,432)	-9.36

Gross Receipts June 2001	\$13,881
Gross Receipts total to Date	\$159,801

He stated they had quite a few pre-payments last year.

Items for Consent

Commissioner Owens asked how many staff vacancies Ms. Bryan had in her office. Ms. Bryan said as of last two weeks she has filled all her vacant positions. Commissioner James asked if consultants have been hired in Pitt County. He asked for a list of all consultants hired in Pitt County and how much money they are being paid. Commissioner Bowen said Commissioner James was specifically asking about Dee Bowling, past Finance Office employee being paid for working. Ms. Bryan said Ms. Bowling gets paid only if she works, if not she does not she does not get paid. She is considered a part time employee which is only used when needed.

Motion to approve the items for consent.
Motion made by Commissioner Eugene James.
Motion seconded by Commissioner Terry Shank.

Vote Record:
Mark Owens Yes
Tom Coulson Yes
Beth Ward Yes
Randy Royal Yes
David Hammond Yes
Glenn Bowen Yes
Terry Shank Yes
Eugene James Yes
Tom Johnson Yes

Total Yes Votes: 9
Total No Votes: 0
Motion Passed.

120-Day Extension of Banking Service Agreement - Melonie Bryan

The County routinely puts its Banking Services out for proposal every three years. The proposals are then brought back to the Board for consideration. The service is typically awarded for a three-year period.

The current agreement with Centura Bank was in effect from August 1, 1998 through July 31, 2001. Due to the protracted Fiscal Year 2001-2002 budget cycle and staff vacancies within the Financial Services Department, the Request for Proposals were not released in the spring as planned.

Therefore, we are requesting a 120-day extension under the existing terms and conditions in order to allow the Financial Services department time to release the RFP, receive responses and analyze results. We will make a recommendation for awarding the Banking Services agreement at the 1st October meeting and then have 30 days for transition if necessary.

Centura has provided good service to the County. We have talked with Centura and they are in agreement with this extension. We will be sending the Requests for Proposal out this week and should have the process finalized within the 120-day window.

Refunds Greater than \$100 - Glenn Cutrell

Total Refunds (Greater Than \$100) - \$172.52
Britt, Jacqueline Marie \$172.52

Internal Audit Procedures - Melonie Bryan

For the past two years, the County has utilized the services of Bryan Starnes and the firm of Martin Starnes and Associates to provide departmental operating audits. To date, we have reviewed the following areas:

(1) ABC Board Operations - received clean opinion and recommended increased to annual reimbursements the Agency remits to the County. Implemented increase for Fiscal Year 2001/2002.

(2) Tax Collector's Office - received clean opinion and confirmed improvements implemented after tax embezzlement were safeguarding the County's funds. Any recommendations made have been implemented or are in the process.

(3) Tax Assessor's Office - no major findings identified but recommended some system improvements that have been or are in the process of being implemented.

(4) Sheriff's Department - no major findings identified but recommended some system improvements that have been or are in the process of being implemented.

(5) Detention Center - no major findings identified but recommended some system improvements that have been or are in the process of being implemented.

(6) Cash Collections Policies - Emergency Management, Public Health, Mental Health, Environmental Health, Inspections and Planning - no major problems noted and recommendations have been implemented.

(7) Pitt Area Transit System - no major problems noted.

Copies of the full reports are kept on files in the Financial Services Department and are available should you desire to review them. We feel this is a valuable service and it reinforces our belief that our staff does a good job.

We anticipate conducting the following reviews during Fiscal Year 2001/2002.

(1) Review outside agencies that receive annual funding from the County. While the requests for funds support the public purpose and we have asked that they submit responses to our office on how their prior year funds were used, we think we should select several agencies to visit each year. Internal staff routinely conducts this type of review with the various Fire and EMS squads so the precedent for reviews of this nature exists. Recommend ECVC, Council on Aging and Family Violence Program be reviewed this year.

(2) Tax Assessor's Office revisit in preparation of Revaluation Process to ensure we're maximizing staff resources.

(3) Trustee Accounts - Department of Social Services/Mental health - ensure that trustee funds are properly handled and safeguards for proper accountability are in place.

(4) Cash Handling Policies - Register of Deeds - similar review as departments in this facility received.

(5) Financial Services - Review of Administrative policies/Procedures to ensure all necessary policies are up to date and enforceable (cash handling, cash management, travel, vehicle usage, etc.)

Review of our systems is vital to ensuring quality services and safeguarding of public assets. While we have a full financial audit each year and its scope is very comprehensive, the trend to specialty audits is growing. Taxpayers want to know where their tax dollars are going and that they are wisely spent. These reviews help ensure that happens.

Disposition of Old Records - Melonie Bryan

Each year, the Finance Department requests the authority to dispose of old records in accordance with the North Carolina Records Retention Laws. The attached list itemizes the records we wish to dispose of at this time.

In keeping with the guidelines set forth in the "Records Retention and Disposition Schedule" published by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, the following

records have been scheduled to be destroyed. We request this information be reflected in the minutes of the Board.

Prior to FY 98/99
(3 yr. Retention)

Cash Receipt Books
Bank Statements/Canceled Checks/Investment Files
Reconciliations/Deposit Slips
Invoices and Paid Check Copies

Cash Receipt Reports/Files
Journal Entries
Daily & Monthly Reports*
Audit Workpapers
Employee Insurance Files
Payroll Deduction Files (401(K), Sick Leave Longevity, NACO, Garnishments)
Local Government Employees Retirement System Report File
Recipient Check & Calculation Registers (DSS)
Landfill Daily & Monthly Tickets, Reports & Statements
Departmental Correspondence

CVA Records
Tax Collection Reports
Grant Files
Accident Reports & Vehicle Maintenance Files
Property & Equipment Inventory Records
Payroll Check Registers, Edits, Monthly & Yearly

Work Papers

Credit Card Receipts

Prior to FY 97/98
(4 yr. retention)

IRS Files including W2's (Payroll copy only)
Employee Time Sheets
1099 Files

Prior to FY 96/97
(5 yr. retention)

Budget Amendments
Annual Budget Workpapers

Prior to FY 90/91
(10 yr. retention)

Year End Expense & Revenue Statements
Year End Trial Balance

*Except reports held for 10 year retention

MTB/te

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 22, 1998

TO: Mr. Jim Turcotte
Pitt-Greenville Airport

FROM: Melonie T. Bryan
Director of Financial Services

SUBJECT: Disposition of Airport Records

Budget Amendments - Rollover from Prior Grant Year - Melonie Bryan

This budget amendment re-appropriates unspent grant funds for the SOS Youth Outreach Services Program from the prior year into the Fiscal Year 2001-02 budget.

243611 426400	Federal Grant	48,922.81
245611 560008 01	SOS Youth Outreach Services	48,922.81

Approval of Minutes - Susan Banks

August 6, 2001, 9am Regular meeting
August 7, 2001, 7:30 pm Redistricting workshop

Educational Leave - Edward L. Garrison

The Social Services Department requests permission to grant educational leave to Ms. Judy Warren.

Ms. Warren is requesting Educational Leave to attend Pitt Community College for the fall session. She will be taking a class in Principles of Management and she is requesting 3 hours of educational leave a week. This course is directly applicable to her current position and her future career with the Social Services Department.

Educational Leave for Jeff Niebauer - Melonie Bryan

In keeping with the County's Educational Leave policy, Jeff Niebauer has requested that he be approved for 3 hours of leave each week. He will be taking Accounting 3551 in the Fall Semester at ECU on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8 am.

I think this course will help Jeff in his tax office duties and benefit the County.

The Board took a ten minute break at this time.

Items for Decision

ABC Board - Request Construction - Tom B. Robinson

Ms. Joan Respass, Administrator for the Pitt County ABC Board has sent the enclosed letter requesting to come before the Board of Commissioners to discuss the system's need for more warehouse space and their request to add approximately 3,650 square feet to the existing warehouse. The cost of this improvement is around \$100,000.

Phil Dickerson and John Weaver, with County Engineering, have reviewed those bids and are OK with the process and low bidder. Care needs to be exercised here. State Law requires construction work over \$100,000 to go through formal bid procedures. As long as the work stays close to the \$100,000 figure the bids and procedures are in order.

Mr. Robinson explained that the ABC Board has requested funds for additional warehouse space. Charles Waller and several members of the ABC Board were present. Ms. Joan Respass provided the Board with a letter stating that two proposals were received. One proposal was from Mosley Construction Co. in the amount of \$124,500, with the low bid coming from Farrior & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$98,975.

Motion to approve request to add approximately 3,650 square feet to the existing ABC warehouse and utilize the \$100,000 needed for the improvement. Award the contract to Farrior and Sons, Inc. as the low bidder in the amount of \$98,975.

**Motion made by Commissioner Mark Owens.
Motion seconded by Commissioner Beth Ward.**

Vote Record:

Tom Coulson	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Randy Royal	Yes
David Hammond	Yes
Glenn Bowen	Yes
Terry Shank	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
Tom Johnson	Yes
Mark Owens	Yes

Total Yes Votes: 9

Total No Votes: 0

Motion Passed

Adopt an Ordinance to establishing the Pitt County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee and Guidelines for the Pitt County Emergency Medical Services. - Bobby Joyner

On August 15, 1988, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution establishing the Pitt County Rescue Commission and Guidelines for the Pitt County Rescue Squads. We are now asking you to adopt the attached Resolution establishing the Pitt County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee and Guidelines for Pitt County Emergency Medical Services.

The Board appointed the Pitt County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee on July 9, 2001. This Resolution will give the Committee guidelines to go by. These guidelines are in compliance with the Safe Harbor Federal Regulations which with the Hospital has to comply. The Hospital has approved the Resolution. This Resolution will have to be in place in order for the hospital to continue to furnish supplies to the Emergency Medical Services in the County.

Mr. Robinson said that this was an ordinance needed.

Mr. Bobby Joyner stated that the committee has been working to make recommendations to make changes. The Hospital has indicated that if they give supplies to the rescue squads then they need to have some input in the ordinance. The ordinance has been revised and the Committee was appointed in July that will oversee these operations. He asked the Board to adopt this revised ordinance. Commissioner Bowen spoke about the citizens comments about double taxation for the rescue tax. Commissioner James said the Hospital member should be a full voting member on the committee. Mr. Joyner said that this person could change from time to time. Commissioner James said that they need to have a voice in how it operates. Mr. Joyner said it will eventually be that a doctor is needed to help with some of these decisions. Chairman Hammond asked about the volunteer squads. Mr. Joyner said Bethel and Fountain are non-profit rescue squads. The rescue squads are incorporated and they pay no taxes.

Recommend approval of the Resolution.

Motion made by Commissioner Eugene James.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Beth Ward.

Vote Record:

Tom Coulson	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Randy Royal	Yes
David Hammond	Yes
Glenn Bowen	Yes
Terry Shank	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
Tom Johnson	Yes
Mark Owens	Yes

Total Yes Votes: 9

Total No Votes: 0

Motion Passed.

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE PITT COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION AND GUIDELINES FOR THE PITT COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, G.S. 153A-149 empowers a Board of County Commissioners to provide for the organization, equipment, maintenance and government of rescue squads and other emergency medical services. G.S. 153A-301 empowers a Board of County Commissioners to established rescue districts.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Pitt County is of the opinion and have found and determined that it is in the public's best interest and necessary for protection of the citizens of Pitt county to encourage and financially aid in the organization, equipment, maintenance and government of the Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squads in Pitt County;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PITT COUNTY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN, THAT:

Section 1. There is hereby created the Pitt County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Commission which shall replace the EMS Advisory Committee. Membership on this Commission shall consist of the following:

1. Five (5) Emergency Medical Services (rescue) affiliated members, one (1) to be a paramedic.
2. Three (3) citizen at large members.
3. One (1) Town Administrator or Manager..
4. One (1) Emergency Medical Services (rescue) trainer.
5. One (1) Hospital Representative.

6. One (1) Pitt County Memorial Hospital Emergency Department Physician and acting as medical director for the non-profit rescue corporations in Pitt County, serving ex officio-non voting member.

Those appointments to this Commission made by the Pitt County Board of Commissioners on July 9, 2001 shall stand as the initial appointments to this Commission.

The five (5) Emergency Medical Services (rescue) affiliated members and the three (3) citizen at large members will serve three (3) year staggered terms. This shall be accomplished by appointing two Emergency Medical Services members to two year terms and three members to three year terms initially, thereafter all shall serve three year terms beginning at the date of expiration of their initial term at the discretion and appointment of the Board of Commissioners; the same process shall occur for the three citizen at large members – one member shall be appointed for an initial term of two years and the other two for a three year term, upon expiration of the initial term all shall serve three year terms thereafter. The Town Administrator or Manager member shall be appointed upon recommendation of the Pitt County Mayor's Association and shall remain in this position until a replacement is recommended or is disqualified by no longer serving in the capacity of a Pitt County Town Manager or Administrator. The Emergency Medical Services (rescue) Trainer member shall be an employee of Pitt Community College and shall be appointed upon recommendation of the President of the College. This member shall serve in this capacity until a replacement recommendation is received from the President or no longer serves in the capacity as EMS trainer at the College. The Pitt County Memorial Hospital (PCMH) member shall be appointed upon recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PCMH. This member shall serve until a replacement is recommended by the CEO of PCMH or is no longer employed by PCMH. The PCMH Hospital Emergency Department Physician who additionally serves as Medical Director of the non-profit corporation rescue squads shall serve as an ex-officio member without voting authority. This member shall be appointed upon recommendation of the CEO of PCMH and shall remain a member until a recommendation for replacement is received from the CEO of PCMH or said individual is no longer employed in the capacity as a PCMH Emergency Department physician.

The duties and powers of the Commission shall be as specified in this Ordinance and the Commission shall make rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Ordinance.

The Commission shall meet bi-monthly.

The Commission shall, from time to time, review the provisions and requirements contained in this Ordinance and shall recommend to the Board of County Commissioners amendments or changes which the Commission may deem advisable.

Section 2. The duties of the Pitt County Emergency Medical Services Advisory Commission shall be as follows:

1. To provide oversight of emergency medical services activities in Pitt County to insure that each Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad's equipment, personnel,

method of operation, training, and skills are adequate to furnish Emergency Medical Services to the area it covers. The Commission's oversight activities shall include the following:

- a. Making annual inspections of each Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad. The Emergency Services Director or his designee can make the inspection for the Emergency Medical Services Commission.
 - b. Standardizing Emergency Medical Services practices and equipment.
 - c. Educating and training pre-hospital care providers.
 - d. Providing ongoing evaluation and improvement of EMS services.
 - e. Providing public information campaigns.
 - f. Coordinating the EMS ambulance restocking program.
 - g. Promoting other activities to improve EMS services in Pitt County.
2. To prepare and submit to the Emergency Services Director an annual budget package for inclusion in the Department Budget Package to be submitted to the Pitt County Board of Commissioners for funding.
 3. To divide the County into rescue districts.
 4. To identify, define, and document the data requirements and relevant information needed from each squad and the Emergency Services Department.
 5. To develop measurable "performance standards" to be complied with by all squads having an agreement with the County to provide emergency medical services.

Section 3. Beginning with the adoption of this Ordinance, Pitt County will offer financial assistance for the maintenance and operation of any Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad qualifying for financial assistance under the terms of this Ordinance as approved in the County budget annually. The payment to each department shall be used for the purchase and maintenance of equipment and for the general operation of the squad. The payments shall be made quarterly.

Section 4. An Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad or a municipally operated Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad desiring financial assistance under this Ordinance shall make application therefore to the Emergency Services Director. Upon receipt of such application, the Emergency Services Director will determine that the Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad is operating according to this Ordinance.

Section 5. If during any inspection by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Commission, or their designee it is determined that the Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad is not meeting minimum standards, set forth in this Ordinance, notice of deficiency shall be given in writing by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Commission or their designee. The notice must be sent to the Emergency Medical Service (rescue) squad Captain and at least two (2) members of the squad. This notice shall specify that a period of fifteen days shall be allowed to correct the specific deficiencies. At the end of the fifteen day period, an inspection shall be made by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Commission or their designee to determine if the deficiencies have been satisfactorily corrected. If the deficiencies have not been corrected, the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Commission shall notify the Board of County Commissioners and the squad shall immediately cease operation until such time as it is determined by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Commission that the squad now meets the minimum standards of this Ordinance. After having ceased operation, an Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad must reapply to operate and receive financial assistance in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.

If deficiencies are found in a squad which has previously met the requirements of the North Carolina Office of Emergency Services or guidelines adopted by Pitt County, the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Commission shall notify the North Carolina Office of Emergency Services as to the existing condition of the squad causing the deficiency.

Section 6. Each Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad operating in Pitt County shall meet the following minimum standards:

1. A volunteer Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina and have a 401 C 3 tax exempt status for the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. A municipal Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad shall be organized under an ordinance of the governing body of the incorporated city or town.

2. Each Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad shall have a Captain and other necessary officers and personnel to provide twenty-four (24) hour coverage seven (7) days a week. An accurate and current listing of all members, showing each members' driver's license number, social security number and date of birth must be on file with the Pitt County Emergency Services Office.

3. All active members of an Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad in good standing shall have a photo ID card issued by Pitt County Emergency Services for identification as a bona fide Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad member. No person other than an active member of the squad in good standing shall be allowed to have this identification.

4. Each Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad shall have the minimum equipment as specified by the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services and equipment specified in the guidelines adopted by Pitt County.

5. Each Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad shall keep in effect a policy of general liability insurance in the amount of at least \$1,000,000 with combined single limits with contractual coverage endorsements. A policy of vehicle liability with insurance limits covering bodily injury; death and property damage claims in the amount of at least \$1,000,000 with combined single limits. A policy of errors and omission for each member of the squad which holds Pitt County harmless from any liability for actions of any member of the squad. Copies of each policy shall be provided to the Pitt County Emergency Service Department prior to any payment made by the County to the squad. Pitt County will carry Worker's Compensation insurance on the active members of each squad whose names are on file in the Emergency Services Office as active members. The County will not be responsible for any claims for accidents, illness, disabilities, or hospitalization not covered by Worker's Compensation.

6. Each Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad shall carry out an organized training program.

7. The Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad Captain is responsible for stressing "safety" throughout the squad and throughout all phases of the squad's activities. Emphasis shall be placed on the safe driving of the Emergency Medical Services squad members using their own automobiles to the scene of an emergency, as well as safe practices while at the scene of an emergency. Only qualified drivers shall drive the rescue trucks. Drivers shall drive with caution at all times. Only active members in good standing shall be allowed to ride the truck when it is on call to an emergency.

8. Each Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad shall respond to the call of the Emergency Services Director. It shall be the duty of the Emergency Services Director to take such steps as are necessary to make sure that in the event of such a call, the district of a squad answering a call shall not be left unprotected.

9. The Emergency Medical Services squad Captain, of the area the emergency is in, will be in charge at the scene of the emergency.

10. All Captains are responsible for keeping accurate records of all calls, as well as other records and reports that may be required. Reports on each and every call will be sent to the Pitt County Emergency Services Office weekly. The Captain will also be responsible for filing with the Emergency Services Office any additional reports which are required by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Commission or by the State of North Carolina.

Section 7. The various Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squads in Pitt County shall be in mutual agreement, when determining the areas in which each will give Emergency Medical Services protection, and within which each will solicit funds. All conflicts of agreements shall be resolved by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Commission.

Section 8. Each incorporated Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad desiring to qualify for County financial assistance under the terms of this Ordinance shall agree in the application for financial assistance to meet the standards contained in this Ordinance and such application shall be signed by the president of the corporation, the secretary of the corporation and the Emergency Medical Services (rescue) Captain. Each municipality desiring to provide Emergency Medical Services outside of its incorporated limits and to qualify for County financial assistance under the terms of this Ordinance shall agree to the standards contained in this Ordinance by proper action of the governing board. The mayor, clerk of the municipality, and the Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad Captain shall sign the application for financial assistance wherein the municipality agrees to meet these standards.

Section 9. Each Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad shall prepare an annual budget showing their anticipated expenses for the coming year. A copy of this budget shall be presented to the Emergency Services Director by March 10 of each year.

In addition, each Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad shall prepare an annual financial statement showing the receipts and expenditures related to county assistance and other income and revenue. A copy of the financial statement shall be presented to the Emergency Services office by October 1 of each year. The County will perform an annual audit of the financial statement and the Emergency Medical Services squad's records.

Section 10. Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad making application to operate in Pitt County shall make application to the Office of Emergency Services. The Emergency Medical Services provider will use such forms as may be required by the County and shall contain the following:

1. The name and address of the Emergency Medical Services provider.

2. The trade or other fictitious names, if any, under which the applicant does business, along with a certified copy of an assumed name certificate stating such name or articles of incorporation stating such name.

3. A resume of the training and experience of the applicant in the transportation and care of patients.

4. A full description of the type and level of service to be provided including the location of the place or places from which it is intended to operate, the manner in which the public will be able to obtain assistance and how the vehicles will be dispatched.

5. An audited financial statement of the applicant as the same pertains to the operations in Pitt County, said financial statement to be in such form and in such detail as may be required by the County.

6. A description of the applicant's capability to provide twenty-four (24) hour coverage, seven days per week for the district applied for, and an accurate estimate of the minimum and maximum times for a response to calls within such district.

7. Any information the County shall deem reasonably necessary for a fair determination of the capability of the applicant to provide emergency medical services in Pitt County in accordance with the requirements of state law and the provisions of this regulation.

Section 11. Each Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad must give rescue services to the district in which it is located twenty-four hours a day, seven days per week.

Section 12. Each Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad must be a participant of the Mutual Aid Agreement in Pitt County.

Section 13. Any Emergency Medical Services (rescue) squad determined to be disclosing patient related information to the public will no longer be recognized by Pitt County, will lose their funds from the County, and their members will no longer be covered by County Worker's Compensation insurance.

Section 14. This Ordinance or any subsequent amendment thereto shall take effect and be in force from and after the date of adoption. This Ordinance shall supersede the Ordinance adopted August 15th 1988.

Adopted this 20th day of August, 2001.

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board

Grant Application Request - Sheriff's Department - STAR (Sheriff Traffic Accident Reduction) Unit - Mac Manning

The Sheriff's Department desires to submit an application for a grant with the Governor's Highway Safety Program for a joint program with Craven and Greene Counties for a Traffic Accident Reduction Unit. This grant would provide for three deputies, with 100% of personnel costs covered in the first year, 75% in year two, and 50% in year three. Seventy-five percent of the equipment costs are funded by the grant in the first year, during which time the major purchase of vehicles and equipment are made.

First year grant amount is \$219,170, with a local match by Pitt County of \$34,710.

Three Year grant amount - \$360,836
Three Year local funds - \$120,136

Sheriff Manning said he discussed this at length during a budget workshop. He said the first year the County would pay 25% or \$34,680 for equipment cost. The County would be responsible for \$28,335 the second year, and \$56,670 for the third year of the grant.

The County would receive almost \$500,000 for county investment of \$119,000. They hope to accomplish traffic control which they are already somewhat responsible for carrying out. He said when they do traffic control it causes a shortage of manpower because they are not staffed for this level of service. The grant would enable them to add three deputies. It is a Governor's Highway Safety Grant and that does include some specific requirements. He said the Manager was concerned about funding this project once it ends. He said this Board funded grantswriter and this is the results of their work. The Sheriff said that since 1998, all new positions in law enforcement in the Sheriff's department have been funded through grants. There are funds already set aside for matching funds on grant projects. He said he needs the Boards authorization to hire three new deputies. Commissioner Coulson said he does not want citizens being harassed. He said that around the University, in the City of Greenville, the police officers are harassing students. He asked if these officers could be utilized for other duties in addition or instead of traffic control. The Sheriff responded that there are already needs for funeral escorts, and law enforcement for other community problems like four wheelers being driven on public highways. He said they would meet the Governor's

goals and address other day to day needs. They will have marked patrol cars. Chairman Hammond expressed a complaint about deputies trying to catch speeders while in the meantime his barn was being broken into in his backyard. Sheriff Manning said he only has one patrol unit with a speed meter. Traffic enforcement is one more tool being added to the tool bag for the Sheriff's staff. They stop vehicles on traffic violations which allows them to check for drugs and stolen goods. Chairman Hammond spoke about territories of Greenville Police versus the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Owens said that this is a grant and at the end of three years the Sheriff needs to have the grantwriter find a way to continue to fund it.

In order to proceed with filing this grant application, staff needs the following actions by the Board of Commissioners:

- 1) Approval for staff to file the grant application;**
- 2) Commitment of local match in the amount of \$34,710 for the first year; and**
- 3) Adoption of a Local Resolution, as attached; and**
- 4) Authorize hiring of three deputies.**

Commissioner Owens added to the motion that the grantwriter needs to look for grants that would continue this grant at the end of the three years.

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Owens to approve the Sheriff's request for the grant application as recommended. Motion seconded by Commissioner Beth Ward.

Commissioner Royal spoke on the continuation of employees and services following the completion of grants and Commissioner James spoke on traffic violations. Sheriff Manning said they need these deputies and either the County pays for them or they get these grants for additional personnel. He said this is not a change in policy because deputies do cite traffic violations but they tend to be more serious violations, if they cite them. Tim Phillips from the Governor's Crime Safety Program was present. Commissioner Bowen said he wants these deputies to be in different uniforms that signifies where they are funded. He spoke about deputies being in the courthouse. Sheriff Manning said they arrest people and then those deputies have to go to court to testify.

Vote Record:

Tom Coulson	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Randy Royal	Yes
David Hammond	Yes
Glenn Bowen	Yes
Terry Shank	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
Tom Johnson	Yes
Mark Owens	Yes

Total Yes Votes: 9

Total No Votes: 0

Motion Passed.

Budget Amendment - Second Year Funding for Gang/Property Crimes Grant - Sheriff's Department - Melonie Bryan

The Sheriff's Department has received notification of second year funding for the Gang/Property Crimes Grant in the amount of \$38,148.54. A local match from Pitt County is required in the amount of \$12,716.18, which would be transferred from our grant match reserve budget, for a total project funding of \$50,864.72.

Ms. Bryan said this is another grant for one deputy which expires in September. The local match is budgeted.

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
243627 426400 02 Rev	Fed Categorical Grant	38,148.54	
243627 498010 02 Rev	Interfund Transfer – Gen	12,716.18	
245627 512000 02 Exp	Salaries	33,899.00	
245627 512200 02	Overtime	2,445.00	
245627 518100 02	FICA Taxes	2,780.32	
245627 518200 02	Retirement	1,570.00	
245627 518201 02	401K Retire	1,695.40	
245627 518300 02	Hospital	3,240.00	
245627 518400 02	Life Insurance	135.00	
245627 521200 02	Uniforms – Employees	600.00	
245627 528000 02	LE Supplies	1,000.00	
245627 531200 02	Travel	1,500.00	
245627 532100 02	Training/ Conf	1,250.00	
109810 598024	Interfund Transfers	1,250.00	
109910 599101	Reserve for Grant match		12,716.18

**Approval of budget amendment as submitted.
 Motion made by Commissioner Mark Owens.
 Motion seconded by Commissioner Beth Ward.**

Vote Record:

Tom Coulson	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Randy Royal	Yes
David Hammond	Yes
Glenn Bowen	Yes
Terry Shank	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
Tom Johnson	Yes
Mark Owens	Yes

Total Yes Votes: 9

Total No Votes: 0

Motion Passed

Waste Industries Contract for Waste Disposal - Joel Scales

The County's contract for hauling and disposing of solid waste calls for a negotiated price adjustment annually. The Consumer Price Index is used as a guide for negotiating this increase. Waste Industries has requested a 3.5% increase in the current price. Waste Industries has cited increased disposal costs, increased workman's compensation/insurance costs, and increased labor costs, as the primary reasons for the increase.

The Fiscal Year 2001/2002 budget allows for an increase in the rate and the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund is in solid financial condition.

The CPI for our area has increased to 3.5%.

We have a clause in the contract, which requires the County to pay Waste Industries the difference if the fuel costs rise more than 5% above \$1.30 per gallon. Waste Industries is required to credit the County if fuel costs less than 5% below \$1.30 per gallon.

Present Pricing \$29.42

Tonnage fee \$29.42 x 10,000 = \$294200.00

Requested Pricing \$30.45

Tonnage fee \$30.45 x 10,000 = \$304500.00

Mr. Joel Scales said staff recommends approval of the 3.5% increase and amendment of the contract to run until July 1, 2002. He gave a historical review of the increases in fuel. Increases in costs in the landfill in Bertie County, labor costs, and workers compensation have all prompted this request for an increase. They intend to do an in-house bid next year and will look at doing this project internally. They hope to be able to do it for a better price than the private sector. The budget does allow for an increase. Commissioner James asked why they did not do a bidding process this year for fuel. Mr. Scales said with Greene County opening a landfill next year, they decided to wait because the situation and needs may change. He said you need at least five years to recoup the costs. Commissioner James spoke about the cost of gasoline in Greenville and asked who prices the gas and if it is retail or wholesale. Stan Matthews, from Waste Industries, said they take competitive bids on each load of fuel they get. He said the fuel they buy goes into commercial and residential. He said they take an average over the month which was \$1.27 last month. He said they do solicit for prices from Trade and they are consistently higher. He said they do this for all of their operations. Mr. Scales said this is diesel fuel which they are referring to which is higher.

- 1) Increase the tonnage fee paid to Waste Industries by 3.5% to \$30.45
- 2) Amend the contract to run until July 1, 2002.

Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.
Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.

Vote Record:

Tom Coulson	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Randy Royal	Yes
David Hammond	Yes
Glenn Bowen	Yes
Terry Shank	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
Tom Johnson	Yes
Mark Owens	Yes

Total Yes Votes: 9

Total No Votes: 0

Motion Passed.

Planning Board Appointments - Susan Banks

There are three positions on the Pitt County Planning Board that need the Board's attention.

1. Thomas Bess - District 6, has served two full terms and is not eligible for reappointment.
2. Dan Wynne - District 3, has served two full terms and is not eligible for reappointment.
3. John Moore - At-Large District, has served one full term and does NOT wish to be reappointed.

Ms. Banks provided a list of applicants for consideration.

Commissioner Bowen nominated Benjamin Forest to replace Thomas Bess.

Commissioner James motioned, seconded by Commissioner Shank, and the Board voted unanimously to appoint Benjamin Forest to replace Thomas Bess on the Pitt County Planning Board.

Commissioner Johnson asked the Board to postpone the decision on the District 3 replacement. It was by consensus that this item was postponed.

Commissioner Owens nominated David Harris and spoke on his behalf. Commissioner James nominated Ed Congleton and spoke on his behalf. Commissioner Owens withdrew his nomination. Commissioner Ward re-nominated David Harris and Commissioner James withdrew the nomination of Ed Congleton.

Chairman Hammond called for a vote on the nomination of David Harris. The Board voted eight to one to appoint David Harris to fill the at-large seat, replacing John Moore on the Pitt County Planning Board. Commissioner Coulson voted in opposition.

Vote Record

Chairman Hammond yes
Commissioner Bowen yes
Commissioner Shank yes
Commissioner Ward yes
Commissioner Owens yes
Commissioner Royal yes
Commissioner James yes
Commissioner Coulson no
Commissioner Johnson yes

Adoption of Revised Voter District Map - James Rhodes

Staff will present the revised redistricting map selected by the Board at its August 7th Workshop Session. The map, entitled A-3, is a modification of Map A-2 reflecting a realignment between Districts 1 & 2 (see attached statistics). Staff will also report on input received from the August 13th presentation to the Board of Education and the August 14th public meeting. To ensure that the adopted map and supporting documents can be approved by the U.S. Department of Justice before January 1, 2002, staff recommends that the Board proceed with map adoption at the August 20th meeting. Attorney Michael Crowell will be available at this meeting.

Mr. Rhodes stated Mr. Michael Crowell was present and had reviewed the progress on the redistricting plans from the beginning. The purpose today is to consider adoption of Map A-3. Each district must have a similar number of people and not be retrogressive, same as in the plans from 1991. There were also assumptions to protect the incumbents. He spoke of the combined districts. The core area of Greenville had an increase in population, which was added to District

1. Commissioner Bowen noted that this map had been reviewed several times and asked if it was necessary to review it again. Mr. Rhodes moved on stating that a summary of statistics were provided for the Board. He stated there was a 44,600 population range for combined districts. Mr. Rhodes said there was a very small deviation the districts. He said the district lines are compact.

Mr. Michael Crowell said the Commissioners did not have a choice about whether or not to redistrict because of the results of the 2000 Census. He stated the County's Planning staff has done a commendable job. The incumbents were kept in the same districts. It maintains the African/American majority districts, which was a tough balancing act. He said he would be glad to assist with the Justice Department requirements if the County needs his assistance. Commissioner Ward asked about a district that is projecting very strong growth in the future and if there was a way to address such an area. Mr. Crowell said that there is not much that can be done about areas of growth in drawing the district lines. He said you want to keep communities together if possible, in keeping with one person one vote.

Adopt a Revised Voter District Map and authorize staff to prepare the package for submittal to the United States Department of Justice for preclearance.

Motion made by Commissioner Eugene James.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Tom Coulson.

Vote Record:

Tom Coulson	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Randy Royal	Yes
David Hammond	Yes
Glenn Bowen	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
Tom Johnson	Yes
Mark Owens	Yes
Terry Shank	No

Total Yes Votes: 8

Total No Votes: 1

Motion Passed.

**RESOLUTION
APPROVING THE REDISTRICTING PLAN AND MAP
FOR PITT COUNTY ELECTION DISTRICTS
FOLLOWING THE 2000 CENSUS**

THAT WHEREAS, the Census of 2000 population figures have shown a significant increase in population which creates a substantial inequality of population in the existing election districts throughout Pitt County; and

WHEREAS, the federal Voting Rights Act, requires that jurisdictions redraw their election districts to insure that there is not a deviation of more than 10% in the size of the smallest and the largest districts within the county; and

WHEREAS, the election districts in Pitt County show a significant deviation in excess of the 10% rule; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has studied all of the census figures and the deviations between population sizes in the various existing districts and has redrawn election

district lines to equalize these changes in population to be in compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act and to insure minority representation; and

WHEREAS, Pitt County is under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act which requires that all matters effecting elections or voting must be precleared through the U.S. Department of Justice prior to implementation;

THEREFORE, based upon N.C.G.S. 153A-22, the Board of Commissioners hereby approves and adopts the attached redistricting map and redistricting plan and directs staff to promptly file this plan and map for preclearance, under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Resolved, approved and adopted this the 20 day of August, 2001.

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

Attest:

Susan J. Banks, Clerk

Potential New Social Services Building in the Pitt County Office Park - Phil Dickerson

Chairman Hammond requested that the Board consider moving ahead with the planning and construction of a new Social Services Building in the Pitt County Office Park. The following represents the historical information as well as updated information on the alternative under consideration.

On August 17, 1999, the Engineering Department prepared a short analysis (Exhibit A) on the most pressing needs for space within County Government. A copy of that analysis is attached. Attention is directed to Options II and III and the recommendations. It should be noted that the recommendation at that time was to proceed with the New Administration Building at the Office Park as well as a new Social Services Building if funds could be made available. It was also noted that the overall task could be accomplished in two phases, the first phase being a new Social Services Building. The analysis also stated that this alternative would be a step toward consolidating County Offices on two campuses.

In early 2001, the Engineering Department prepared a Pitt County Facilities Study. The Study set out the eight highest priorities for construction of new County space. In this document, it was noted that although the needed projects were arranged in priority order, there was the flexibility to rearrange the priorities and still adequately meet the County's needs. The document further stated that approximately 102,000 additional square feet of office space would be needed over the next five years to meet the needs. That document also noted that a new Social Services Building was a high priority. The section of the Study (Exhibit B) summarizing needs is also attached. It should be noted that the new Social Services Building would provide a high percentage of the new space that the study projected the need for in the first five years.

In the summer of 2001, the Board spent time looking at the Physicians East Property on Memorial Drive as a possible solution to part of the County's space needs. The Board decided not to consider the purchase of that property. In that process, however, the Social Services Staff, the Financial Staff and the Engineering Staff updated the Social Services need for space, the cost estimates for that space, the reimbursements from the State and the net impact to County

expenditures, if a new Social Services Building was constructed. The analysis (Exhibit C) is attached. It should be noted that the estimated additional cost to the County for a new Social Services Building is approximately \$581,000 annually. This figure is based on financing \$11,250,000 for twenty years. The annual cost is a best estimate at this stage and it may vary up or down depending on the final design and construction or other changes in factors affecting the size, interest rate, etc., related to the building.

The construction of a new Social Services Building should eliminate the need for Social Services to rent property. The reduction in rents paid is reflected in the analysis of the annual cost to the County. In addition to vacating rental properties, Social Services would vacate the BB&T Building (3,280 square feet), the County Office Building (35,155 square feet) and the Council on Aging Building (3,133 square feet). This frees up 41,568 square feet that can be used to satisfy other space needs.

The cost of any improvement and how it can be paid is always a major consideration. The additional annual cost to the County for a new Social Services Building is estimated to be approximately \$581,000, the equivalent to approximately one-cent on the property tax rate.

The debt service for the building will be approximately \$950,000. Reimbursement will be approximately \$488,000 in addition to that now being received. Given the budget situation in FY 2001-02 and the projected budget situation in FY 2002-03, there is no reason to expect that this cost can be absorbed without increasing revenues or decreasing expenditures. If the Board wishes to begin the process of building a new building now, major expenses will begin to accrue immediately. These expenses will be for architectural services initially and costs of financing later. In approximately two years, payments on the COPS or other financing methods will become due.

Commissioner Owens said that with a matter of this much importance where the County is spending \$18 - \$20 million, the Board should hold a workshop. Chairman Hammond asked the Board to allow this brief bit of information to be shared and then they could make a decision on the workshop. Mr. Dickerson said that he had included some historical information in this agenda package that he had presented to the Board at a meeting on August 7, 1999. He said in looking at the net and annual cost to the County for the space for the Physicians East property, the conclusion was made that it would be beneficial to build a building instead of buying the Physicians East building. Commissioner Bowen asked if the County sold all the properties that are owned by the County downtown, how much money would be raised. Mr. Dickerson said the only building that houses Social Services staff downtown was the BB&T building that has 4,000 square feet of space. He said the Public Defender's space needs to be expanded. He said they are sharing offices in areas where they are taking confidential information and that is not a good situation. There is no space that the County can sale right now because it is all needed. Chairman Hammond asked about scheduling a workshop to consider this item in greater detail. Chairman Hammond asked the Board to consider meeting on September 11th at 5:30 p.m. for a workshop on the Social Services Building. The consensus of the Board was to meet on September 11th at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Robinson reviewed the costs for a new Social Services building of \$11,350,000 including operating costs. He stated that including the operating costs, funds from the State and annual debt payment would be \$950,000. Mr. Dickerson said that they have revised the plans for a 9,000 square feet building. Commissioner Owens wants staff to come back with how to generate the additional funds for the annual costs. Chairman Hammond noted that the County already owns the land where this building could be built. Mr. Garrison said if all the other departments were moved out of the first floor of the County Office Building, he still would not have enough space for Social Services staff. He said there are several other areas that need space which could be made available if Social Services was moved out of the County Office Building. Commissioner Coulson suggested people pay fees for some of the services offered by Social Services. Mr. Robinson said the County cannot charge fees for these mandated programs.

Commissioner James spoke about spending the money for the building and the priorities. Commissioner Shank said the timing is important on this matter and now is the time to move forward on this project. Commissioner Bowen said he wants to know what can be saved on rent. Mr. Dickerson stated \$71,688 would be saved on rent. Mr. Dickerson said that 60,000 square feet would be freed up in the County Office Building and the Council on Aging building for other uses.

Resolution to Repeal, Release and Refund EMS/Rescue Tax for fiscal year 2001-2002 and to Report to the Board on Why this Action is Necessary and What Remediation is Necessary - John K. Bulow

It has come to Staff's attention that procedural errors were made when the Board of Commissioners adopted the EMS Service District tax levied in the 2001-2002 budget. This issue has come to our attention as taxpayers questioned the legality of the tax within the corporate limits of the municipalities (excepting Greenville). Upon close examination of the process, it has been determined that process to implement the tax was flawed and thus the entire tax is invalid. To remedy this error it is necessary to adopt the attached resolution to repeal the current tax and release and refund any EMS/Rescue taxes already collected.

As we have begun the new fiscal year, it is impossible to rectify the errors made in the implementation of the tax. In fact, the staff has found that creation of a special taxing district is time consuming and detailed process that will require a number of steps to implement the tax. This process was not clear to staff until a detailed examination of the process occurred.

With the need to release and refund the dedicated EMS Service District tax, the funds budgeted to improve rescue services in the County do not have a sufficient revenue source to meet the obligations to the Rescue Squads. It is proposed that the County lend to the special fund established approximately \$470,000 of unappropriated fund balance until the tax can be established in FY2002-2003. The County will be collecting rescue fees countywide excluding the City of Greenville on January 1, 2002, and thus partial funding will be available. It is the expectation is that fee collections and a special district tax will fund the system in future years and repay the loan back to the general fund. It is recommended that the following steps be taken:

1. Repeal, Release, and Refund the EMS/Rescue Tax for FY 2001-2002 by approving the attached resolution.
2. Approve a budget amendment appropriating \$470,000 to loan the EMS fund sufficient revenue to complete the budgeted obligations to the squad.
3. Staff be authorized to begin the process anew to implement a service district tax for FY 2002-2003.
4. That staff write a letter of apology to each property owner and detail their correct tax obligation.

Chairman Hammond thanked Ms. Rose Glover for her help on providing information on this rescue tax matter. He thanked her for her networking ability. Ms. Rose Glover, Greenville City Council member, spoke about the importance of both local governments working together. She spoke about Chairman Hammond visiting a meeting of the City Council and requesting that they work together. She said they can help each other and that is why she sent that information to Chairman Hammond. Chairman Hammond said that the Managers, Mayor and he had met and discussed the rescue tax.

Mr. Bulow said his charge today is to explain how the situation on the need to repeal the rescue tax got to this point. He said there have been response times issues and monetary problems with the rescue squads. He said first they asked rescue volunteers for recommendations. The the Board appointed a committee and that work was a failure. The third attempt was to hire Freeman White as a consultant on the rescue situation. The consultant, Steve Allan, did a study and made three recommendations. On July 9th the Board established

the new EMS Advisory Committee and appointed members. Mr. Bulow said that in talking with the Manager and Mr. Marvin Davis, Greenville City Manager, Mr. Davis had indicated that the City would continue to be a partner but did not need to be included in this rescue tax as long as the County continued funding at the level it is currently funding the City. It was recommended to do a special district where the County would be taxed exclusive of the City of Greenville. He said this was where the problem occurred. It began with the Ayden Rescue Tax which was not the true name. He said this was his error. Mr. Bulow said that Mr. Joyner set this rescue tax district up. On June 18th it was discussed with the Board. It was intended to be a good equitable funding solution for the rescue services. He said it was discussed with the municipalities. He said citizens contacted the Town of Ayden and found a public hearing was not held and the tax within the towns was not legally implemented. He said he accepted this as his responsibility and he should have had better oversight. Mr. Bulow said regardless of the error, the need is still there for a rescue tax in Pitt County. He recommended the three actions to remedy this procedural error. The allocation to the rescue squads still needs to be paid by the County which will need to come out of the County's general fund. He said he would send the letter of apology to the taxpayers, which he said he would put his signature on, if it was the Board's desire. He said a three-cent tax levy across the County would not have been a problem but when the City of Greenville was exempted from the tax it began to change things.

Mr. Bulow said they thought they could still implement the tax as part of the budget and have the regular budget hearing. A specific public hearing should have been held and a resolution should have been adopted by each municipality to be included in this plan. Commissioner Ward spoke about the budget amendment for the rescue units to get their original funding, which they would have gotten from the three cents tax. She asked if the loan for funding this service now would be paid back to the County. Mr. Bulow said a surplus was built into this number. We had hoped that the fee for service would run the rescue system. North Carolina is the lowest state for reimbursement for rescue services under Medicaid, with a reimbursement rate of \$100. The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is working to get this raised to \$400. He said they hope the surplus will pay that loan back. Each EMS unit was anticipating being paid \$30,000 per unit. They will be getting that minimum funding. Commissioner Bowen asked how much was paid to the consultant. Mr. Joyner said that the consultant was paid \$30,000. He said he provided the General Statute that provides for the rescue tax districts which said the municipalities should have a resolution adopted. Commissioner Ward said the municipalities were in favor of the actual County rescue tax because it should help each rescue squad, and she felt the public should know that.

Mayor Bob Evans of Farmville was present. He said the Town Council of Farmville- was in favor of the rescue tax but felt their citizens were being taxed without an opportunity to voice an opinion. He said they were in favor of fair and equitable services. Chairman Hammond reported that North Carolina has already won the suit about the Medicaid reimbursement but the Federal government is withholding it from the State. Mayor Evans said they have a three-year contract with their rescue squads. Commissioner Bowen asked if they knew the County was going to do a three cents increase for rescue when they did their budget. Mayor stated that they did know about the three cents rescue tax when they did their budget.

Commissioner James asked about how much Farmville charges for rescue calls because a friend of his got a \$475 bill for a rescue call. He lived in the Belvoir area, not the Farmville area. Commissioner James said the rescue charge should be uniform across the County. Mayor Evans said the Town of Farmville does not approve the individual rescue squads charges. Mr. Joyner said every one of the squads has their own fees and charges, which is why the County needs to take over the fees and charges as of January 1, 2002 as recommended and planned. Mr. Joyner said that Steve Allan would be back on August 30th to meet with the committee and help them move forward on these projects. Mr. Bulow said that one municipal official said a true cost for a rescue call is \$700.

Mr. Robinson said that on the tax bills, the public will see how their taxes are allocated. He said they are very careful how funds are used in Pitt County. Commissioner Coulson said this Board was trying to address past problems with rescue squads and the Board has allowed them to charge their own fees. He said that come January 1, 2002 this should be resolved.

Mr. Joyner said that there are ten volunteer rescue squads, with over three hundred volunteers who have gone to schools to get their certifications and they raised money to provide these services. He stated that the plan is for the committee to come back to the Board with a report. He asked that the Board remember that they are working with volunteers and if they walk out the door and quit, there is no way to put a system in place that quickly.

Staff recommended that the following steps be taken:

- 1. Repeal, Release, and Refund the EMS/Rescue Tax for FY 2001-2002 by approving the attached resolution.**
- 2. Approve a budget amendment appropriating \$470,000 to loan the EMS fund sufficient revenue to complete the budgeted obligations to the squad.**
- 3. Staff be authorized to begin the process anew to implement a service district tax for FY 2002-2003.**
- 4. That staff write a letter of apology to each property owner and detail their correct tax obligation.**

Motion made by Commissioner Eugene James.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Tom Coulson.

Vote Record:

Tom Coulson	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Randy Royal	Yes
David Hammond	Yes
Glenn Bowen	Yes
Terry Shank	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
Tom Johnson	Yes
Mark Owens	Yes

Total Yes Votes: 9

Total No Votes: 0

Motion Passed.

Budget Amendment

Account No.	Title of Account	Increase	Decrease
2812100 410001	Taxes		969,756
2817100 599100	Contingency		484,243
2812900 498010	Interfund Transfer –General	485,513	
102900 499100	Fund Balance	485,513	
109810 598281	Fund Transfer – EMS	485,513	

RESOLUTION

**TO REPEAL, RELEASE AND REFUND EMS/RESCUE TAX
ASSESSED BY PITT COUNTY IN FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002.**

THAT WHEREAS, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners determined after extensive study that it was desirable for Pitt County to improve and extend EMS/Rescue services countywide, excluding the City of Greenville; and

WHEREAS, the needs of the citizens of Pitt County for these services would best be met by the establishment of a countywide service district, excluding the City of Greenville; and

WHEREAS, the volunteer EMS/Rescue units throughout the county needed a better and more equitable funding source which could be met by a countywide EMS/Rescue tax; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a countywide tax to provide funding for EMS/Rescue, outside the City of Greenville, would be a great benefit to all of the citizens of Pitt County; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Statutes under §153A-300 provides a process for establishing such a service district;

The Board of Commissioners established and assessed an EMS/Rescue tax throughout Pitt County, excluding the City of Greenville, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001 to fund countywide EMS/Rescue Services; and

WHEREAS, it has come to light that all requirements of the law were not met prior to enactment of this tax;

After study and consideration of this error, the Board of Commissioners has determined that this tax must be repealed, those taxes assessed must be released, and those taxes already paid must be refunded as soon as possible;

THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Pitt County hereby repeals the EMS/Rescue tax assessed in Pitt County, outside the City of Greenville, for the fiscal year 2001-2002; and

FURTHERMORE, the Board of Commissioners hereby directs Pitt County Tax Administration to immediately begin the process of releasing those EMS/Rescue taxes assessed by Pitt County, outside the City of Greenville, and refunding those EMS/Rescue taxes paid for the fiscal year 2001-2002;

Duly adopted this the 20 day of August, 2001.

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Hammond, Chairman

Attest:

Susan J. Banks, Clerk

Ayden Planning Board appointment

Commissioner Bowen asked the Board to consider appointing Donald Kinney to the Ayden Planning Board.

**Motion made by Vice Chairman Glenn Bowen.
Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.**

Vote Record:

Tom Coulson	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Randy Royal	Yes
David Hammond	Yes
Glenn Bowen	Yes
Terry Shank	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
Tom Johnson	Yes
Mark Owens	Yes

Total Yes Votes: 9

Total No Votes: 0

Motion Passed

Commissioners' Comments

-Commissioner Shank said she attended a session in Fayetteville at the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference about the North Carolina Progress Board. She said they have released findings about where the State is in this program and one of the goals is to move forward with water service, wastewater management systems and other infrastructure improvements. There are \$11 billion in capital improvement needs for the future. She spoke about the schools where students receive equal opportunity. She said the statistics are that 47% of students are completing high school and in Pitt County the dropout rate is not where it should be. She said that is why every opportunity to improve this performance should be looked into for implementation. North Carolina is changing globally and manufacturing and service jobs are changing rapidly. The future shows that the income for our people may not be there like it has been in the past.

-Chairman Hammond said that the Hispanic population has outflanked the Black population in the United States with - 12.5% Hispanics and 12.3% Blacks. He reviewed the new officers of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. He said a lot of major industries are recruiting labor instead of using local labor.

-Chairman Hammond thanked Commissioner Bowen and Commissioner Shank as well as the Manager, Clerk and Attorney for attending the NC Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference.

-Commissioner Bowen spoke about the letter to the editor in the local paper about crime coming from the cut back on Mental Health and that the United Way had even stopped funding the Mental Health Center.

- Mr. Bulow said that the United Way did not back out of Mental Health Center support, but they backed out of the Mental Health Association which is a different agency.

-Commissioner Coulson expressed his regret that all our local representatives and senators have gone on record supporting the one-cent increase in sales tax. He said it would be an ongoing tax for the people.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at around 1:30 p.m.

**Motion made by Commissioner Beth Ward.
Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Glenn Bowen.**

Vote Record:

Tom Coulson	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Randy Royal	Yes
David Hammond	Yes
Glenn Bowen	Yes
Terry Shank	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
Tom Johnson	Yes
Mark Owens	Yes

Total Yes Votes: 9

Total No Votes: 0

Motion Passed.

There was no closed session on this meeting, as was presented on the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board