

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA  
JUNE 3, 2002 MINUTES**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met with Legislators for a breakfast meeting. Present were: Representative Marian McLawhorn, Representative Edith Warren, Senator Ed Warren, and Representative Eugene Rogers. Commissioners present were: Mark W. Owens, Jr., Beth Ward, Terry Shank, Tom Johnson and Eugene James. Commissioners absent were: Tom Coulson, Randy Royal and David Hammond. Staff present were: Scott Elliott, JoAnne Burgdorff, Susan Banks, Phil Dickerson, John Bulow and Melonie Bryan. The meeting began at 7:30 a.m. and was held in the Development Commission Conference Room.

Commissioners discussed the need for the Governor not to withhold local funding. They also discussed different sources of revenues and other considerations in the Governor's proposed State budget for Fiscal Year 2002-2003. No action was taken. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, June 3, 2002, at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

**Commissioners present:**

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

**Staff present:**

Scott Elliott, County Manager  
Susan Banks, Clerk to the Board  
Melonie Bryan, Director of Financial Services  
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney  
Glenn Cutrell, Tax Assessor  
John Bulow, Assistant Manager

**Call to Order**

Chairman Owens called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**Invocation and Pledge**

**Information Provided with the Agenda**

The invocation was offered by Commissioner Hammond.  
The Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Coulson.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Elliott said the closed session should be removed from this agenda, consider ratifying action taken previously on the County Attorney's salary and the County Engineer's salary. He

asked that the Board allow him to discuss the upcoming meeting schedule for budget presentation and public hearing. Mr. Elliott noted that a correction to the minutes from the May 20<sup>th</sup>, meeting had been placed in front of each commissioner for action.

**Motion:**

**Motion to approve agenda as amended by the Manager.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Eugene James.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner David Hammond.**

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

**Public Addresses to the Board**

Ervin Hardee, stated he moved away from Pitt County but he still is a Pitt County property owner. He worked as a volunteer for the Eastern Pines Rescue Squad for many years. He was concerned about the countywide EMS tax and its effect on Eastern Pines Rescue Squad. He said that years ago, Eastern Pines Rescue Squad realized that something has to be done. He said it should be fair to everyone but that has not happened. Mr. Hardee said that ten years ago there were manpower problems at the Eastern Pines squad. They went to the General Assembly to get a special rescue district tax approved. The citizens approved this with a two to one vote margin. Citizens have been paying a reasonable tax rate for ten years. He raised the question of legality of the Board implementing a higher tax rate than citizens have to currently pay to meet their needs and it is meeting their needs and adding a per call charge. He encouraged the Board to check out the legality of what they were doing. Eastern Pines Rescue Squad should be exempt just like the City of Greenville. He said he is worried about what will happen with Eastern Pines Rescue Squad if this countywide tax passes. He said the members feel that the Board should take away the tax. They are concerned with charging taxpayers, and the rescue squad members a per call charge. In addition they are cutting capital outlay such as purchase of trucks and incentives used for volunteers have been eliminated. They have provided the best service for citizens. He said this is not a partnership as the Board has alluded too. Let the citizens have their tax back.

Jane Barnhill stated that the people from north of the river appreciate the Board not raising taxes. She said all sectors of the State feel the pinch from this budget. She said things are not going to get better following the terrorists attacks. She said this County is lucky to have money but backroom politics are still going on. She spoke of the business in closed session that raised eyebrows. She stated that the amount of raise for the County Attorney was a large amount for that position. She said she hopes discussion on topics of this type should not take away from the budget. She said this is the most important time of the fiscal year.

Mae Stancill spoke in support of using the \$30 million trust fund being used to balance the budget. She said she appreciated that the Commissioners are trying to do what is right for all citizens. She attended the joint board meeting and was disappointed with the lack of relevant information from Dr. Priddy on progress of students. She said if the Board wants the citizens to sacrifice other services for schools, then the least they can demand is accountability from the schools. She said the School Board has gotten by with providing a smoke screen when addressing local allocations and students progress.

Joyce Manning voiced concern about raising taxes. She said it is a bad time to consider that and you should stay within their budget the same way the citizens do. If you can afford to give a big raise behind closed doors then the least you can do is not consider raising our taxes. We are being taxed to death now and this should not be on the agenda. More tax on our small income is not what we need at this time.

Betty Moore thanked Commissioners Bowen, Coulson, Hammond, James and Johnson for remembering that over 20% of the population lives in poverty. She stated support of using the \$30 million fund. She stated that the public views public safety as the #1 priority not as the # 2 priority as stated in the Commissioners' workshop. She said she is a Grandmother of school age children and believes in adequate funding for schools but also believes in accountability. She said this Board needs to hold the schools accountable. She stated that every year they beg for a large increase for the schools. She said the average school teacher is paid \$37,000 and their supplement is 4.5% of their salary. Dr. Priddy's supplement is \$50,000 or 49% of his base salary. Every year Commissioners Owens, Ward, Shank and Johnson say it is not the place of this Board to tell the Schools how to spend the money but if they cared they would ask accountability of the funds. She encouraged the Board to keep an eye on the investment in these children. She said this Board should ask Dr. Priddy for a full accounting on each line item and progress charts from each school. She said they should show progress from the extra \$5 million from the compact. She said this is not telling the schools how to run their system. She said the well orchestrated dog and pony show put on by Dr. Priddy, away from the public eye, without accountability is unacceptable.

Nancy Colville spoke about the faith community program sponsored by Oasis Hope Independent Church in Farmville. She said this program is housed with a church day care program which is in violation of a North Carolina law. This law prohibits short-term suspension students being housed with a day care. She visited this program who's plans are to serve 100 students. She said there were a total of two children there with one in each program. Ms. Colville said a criminal background check was conducted that revealed two individuals with the same name acting as directors of the two programs. There was an indication of misrepresentation for obtaining employment security checks, harassing phone calls and other matters that are waiting a court date. Ms. Colville stated that the school system provides parents with the name of this program for their children. She felt a full investigation of the program is in order by the North Carolina Division of Child Development. The School Board should revisit this program and background checks should be required by the School Board for programs that they endorse.

Ms. Colville stated that in 1999 the medium income of an individual in Pitt County was \$30,000 to \$35,000. She stated that one-half cent sales tax should help with the financial crunch but she could not support the increase of two cents property tax to balance the budget. She said the Commissioners failed to eliminate their special programs but these tax dollars belong to the citizens. She quoted Commissioner Shank's comments from the joint Board of Commissioners and School Board meeting stating that the goals should remain flexible and changes may need to be made annually on the education compact. In retrospect, the County's intention to strive to fund the compact should be flexible as well. She said if you compare the charts provided by the Schools for 1999-2001 you see improvement in some areas and not in others. Ms. Colville asked why the extra half million dollars or more from fines and forfeitures not included as part of the County's contribution to schools. These funds plus \$350,000 in-kind services for the schools and the extra \$2 million should be counted as per pupil contribution.

#### **Items for Report**

*Manager's Report - Scott Elliott*

#### **Information Provided with the Agenda**

Legislative Briefing Update  
Other matters as needed

#### **Meeting Notes**

Mr. Elliott asked the Board to ratify action taken previously on two different salaries.

He asked the Board to approve the County Attorney's salary at \$92,549, which was originally approved in a closed session.

**Motion:**

**Motion to approve County Attorney's salary at \$92,549.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Tom Johnson.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner David Hammond.**

Commissioner Bowen asked the Chairman to explain the reason behind reconsideration of this request. Chairman Owens stated the Board discussed the County Attorney's salary in closed session. Chairman Owens said this person had not been given raises by the prior County Manager when they were eligible to receive a raise. He said these items were done in closed session and on advice of the County Attorney, this information was not made public following the closed session. Through thorough investigation, the Manager determined that this item needed to be put back on the Board's agenda for action in open session. Commissioner James said this is not the time for an increase in salaries. He said the Attorney is supposed to keep this Board out of trouble and we are staying in trouble. He said he voted against the raise before and will vote against it again. Commissioner Hammond called for the question.

**Vote Record:**

<b>Beth Ward</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Randy Royal</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>David Hammond</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Terry Shank</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tom Johnson</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mark Owens, Jr.</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tom Coulson</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Glenn Bowen</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Eugene James</b>	<b>No</b>

**Total Yes Votes: 6**

**Total No Votes: 3**

**Motion Passed.**

**Motion:**

That any positions the Board of Commissioners are responsible for should have an annual evaluation and their raise should be tied to this evaluation.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner James.

Vice Chairwoman Ward offered an amendment that people the Board is responsible for would be under the manager for evaluation purposes and the Manager would then make a recommendation for their raises to the Board.

Commissioner Bowen asked Ms. Burgdorff if she was hired by the Board and then stated that he did not support the Manager doing the evaluations and making salary recommendations. Vice Chairwoman Ward said she had served on this Board for three and one half years and there had been two evaluations performed and at no time did the Board act on a recommendation for increases in salary. She stated that with the process in place with personnel for setting goals and reviewing accomplishment, the Manager is capable of determining if staff has meet their goals. She said it would fit in with the personnel plan. The present manager is capable. Commissioner James said he supports the motion and the Board raises should be in conjunction with the Manager on the Attorney's raises. Commissioner James said he thinks a great deal of Ms. Burgdorff but he has convictions about raising salaries at this time and would have to stand by his convictions. He said this authority to review staff that they appoint should not be taken away from the Board. Commissioner Coulson said the Board should work in conjunction with the Manager on the Clerk, Attorney, and Tax Collector and have him report to the Board. Commissioner Coulson said this Board had evaluations of these individuals six months ago and some of the commissioners did not participate in writing. He stated he was one of the more critical commissioners of some of the people and felt these comments should be made part of their

personnel record. He said the Board should not relinquish control of these individuals. Commissioner Hammond said the Board was trying to rectify something that was done incorrectly with these two employees. He stated that staff and the Board did surveys on these two employees (Clerk and Attorney) and they had two of the highest evaluations of any employees. He said some board members had reluctance about writing down comments about the employees to the previous manager. Commissioner Bowen said the Board should evaluate these employees. He said he does not mind advice from the Manager on this staff but he wants the Board to do their evaluations. Chairman Owens noted that the Vice Chairwoman Ward's amendment did not receive a second so he called for a vote on Commissioner Shank's original motion. The Board voted unanimously to support Commissioner Shank's motion.

Mr. Elliott recommended an update on the County Engineer's salary from Grade 84 Step 20 to Step 24 which was ratifying a previous action taken by the Board in closed session.

**Motion:**

**To approve the County Engineer's salary from Grade 84 Step 20 to Grade 84 Step 24.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Tom Johnson.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Randy Royal.**

**Vote Record:**

<b>Beth Ward</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Randy Royal</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>David Hammond</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Terry Shank</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tom Johnson</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mark Owens, Jr.</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tom Coulson</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Glenn Bowen</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Eugene James</b>	<b>No</b>

**Total Yes Votes: 6**

**Total No Votes: 3**

**Motion Passed.**

Mr. Elliott stated that the Budget presentation is not ready today and would like the Board to reconsider the schedule for the budget presentation and the public hearing. He stated the public hearing was scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. He stated he would like to present the budget on June 11<sup>th</sup> and then hold the public hearing on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Coulson asked for public hearing to be done at night. Commissioner Johnson said the Board should have the regular meeting in the morning and have the hearing at night. The Board discussed changing the public hearing and other options. They then came to an agreement to have the budget presentation on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and keep the public hearing as scheduled on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. since the hearing had already been advertised.

**Motion:**

**To schedule a board meeting for June 10, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. for presentation of the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year County Budget and continue with plans to hold the public hearing on June 11th at 7:00 p.m.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Eugene James.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Terry Shank.**

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

**Items for Consent**

**Motion:**

**Motion to approve items for consent as presented.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.  
 Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.  
 Motion Passed Unanimously.**

*Releases and Refunds Greater Than \$ 100 - Glenn Cutrell*

**Information Provided with the Agenda**

April 2002 - Total County Releases (Greater Than \$100) - 87 - \$ 15,542.17  
 April 2002 - Total City Releases ( Greater Than \$100) - 47 - \$ 6,834.41

Total Refunds (Greater Than \$100) - 2 - \$ 358.28

Jaguar Credit - \$ 137.89  
 Jones, Christy L. - \$ 220.39

**Motion:**

**Approve as submitted.  
 Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.  
 Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.  
 Motion Passed Unanimously.**

*Budget Amendment - Controlled Substances - Ward Parker*

**Information Provided with the Agenda**

The Sheriff's Office has received funds from the state for taxes collected on controlled substances. These are restricted funds to be used solely for law enforcement purposes. These funds are being appropriated to the respective account numbers in the budget.

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
225602 553001	Law Enforcement Equipment	7525.88	
223602 426500	Revenue-State Excise Tax on controlled Substances	7525.88	

**Department Justification:** (Please provide detailed explanation)

To appropriate funds received from the State of NC for taxes on controlled substances for the Pitt County Sheriff's Office. These are restricted funds to be used solely for law enforcement purposes.

**Motion:**

**Approve budget amendment as presented.  
 Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.  
 Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.  
 Motion Passed Unanimously.**

*Declaration of Surplus Equipment - Melonie Bryan*

**Information Provided with the Agenda**

The attached Public Notice lists the equipment that will be sold by the County at public auction on June 8, 2002. The items have been duly advertised and notice given to all parties on our public notice list. Therefore, we need to declare the list as surplus so the sale can be conducted as scheduled.

### VEHICLES

1993 Plymouth Acclaim	1995 Chevrolet Caprice
1997 Ford Crown Vic	1996 Ford Crown Vic
1996 Ford Crown Vic	1994 Plymouth Acclaim
1995 Ford Taurus	1992 Ford Tempo
1995 Chevrolet Caprice	1993 Chevrolet Caprice
1996 Ford Crown Vic	1995 Aerostar Van
1996 Ford Crown Vic	1991 Chevrolet Van

### FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

Sink and counters, stainless steel, 12' and 8'	Washer and Dryer
Office furniture, desk, chairs, etc.	Ice machines
Tables, stainless steel	Water coolers
Conference table	Coffee table
Cabinets, metal small and large	Electric Saw
Wood heater	Lights
Counter, 8'	Wire baskets
Shelf, metal 6'	Crib
Doors	Car seat
Dining table and chairs	High Chair
Microwave	Children's chairs, small
End table	Children's tables, small
Bed	Tricycle
Lamps	Teapots
Sofa, black leather	

Everything sold "as is, where is", with no expressed or implied warranties. The County reserves the right to add to or delete from this list. Titles for the vehicles sold will be available for cash buyers, and those purchased by check will be mailed upon clearance of check. Other terms and conditions will be announced prior to sale. All bidders must register prior to sale time with name, address and valid NC driver's license. No out-of-state checks will be accepted. Sale conducted by Ernie Nichols, NCAL #5430. The Pitt County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Vehicles will be available for inspection on Friday, June 7, 2002, from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the TEC Center (Technology Enterprise Center, formerly - Prepshirt Manufacturing Facility), 1800 N. Greene Street, Greenville, North Carolina. Call Chris McDaniel at (252) 830-6306 for additional information.

#### **Motion:**

**Declare attached list of equipment as surplus.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.**

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

**Information Provided with the Agenda**

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 105-381(b), the Finance Officer has approved and is reporting the following release and refund information. This information is usually an attachment to the monthly financial status report for the County. Due to special meeting on April 25, 2002 and the budget workshops, the financial status information has been reported in a different format as a part of the deliberation process.

**Releases &  
Refunds - \$100 or  
Less**

**March  
2002**

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 105-381(b), the Finance Officer has approved and is reporting the following release and refund information:

Total County Releases:	345	\$11,713.43
Total City Releases:	194	\$6,837.65
Total Tax Refunds:	28	\$923.27

**Motion:**

**Accept tax releases and refunds information as presented.  
Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.  
Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.  
Motion Passed Unanimously.**

**Information Provided with the Agenda**

This budget amendment closes out the 1997 Courthouse capital project, utilizing the balance available to cover debt service payments as allowed in the bond documents.

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
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431000 499100 97001	Fund Balance Appropriated	\$222,781	
438120 598030 97001	Transfer to Debt Service Fund	\$222,781	
302900 498430	Transfer from Fund 430	\$222,781	
302900 498010	Transfer from General Fund		\$222,781
109810 598030	Transfer to Debt Service Fund		\$222,781
102900 499100	Fund Balance Appropriated		\$222,781

**Department Justification:** (Please provide detailed explanation)

Closeout of 1997 Courthouse project. Using balance to cover debt service payments as per bond documents.

**Motion:**

**Approval of budget amendment as submitted.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.**

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

*Approval of Minutes - Susan Banks*

**Information Provided with the Agenda**

May 13, 2002 public hearing  
May 20, 23, 2002 meetings

**Motion:**

**Approve minutes from May 13, 20, and 23, 2002 meetings.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.**

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

*Budget Amendments - State Grants - HCCBG - Melonie Bryan*

**Information Provided with the Agenda**

This amendment for \$40,864 appropriates revenue and corresponding expenditure to the Council on Aging of FY 00-01 grant funds received and expensed in the current fiscal year.

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREAS
243640 436018 Rev	HCCBG Mid East	40,864	
245640 569013 Exp	Council on Aging	40,864	

**Department Justification:** (Please provide detailed explanation)

Appropriating carryover FY 00-01 funds received and expensed after the start of the FY 01-02 budget.

**Motion:**  
**Approval of budget amendments as submitted.**  
**Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.**  
**Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.**  
**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

**Items for Decision**

*Budget Amendments - Other Public Safety and State Grants - Melonie Bryan*

**Information Provided with the Agenda**

The following two amendments appropriate use of contingency funds:

1) Other Public Safety - Appropriates \$45,000 from Contingency to Youth Services line item. This funding is required to pay bills for housing Pitt County juveniles at the State Juvenile Detention Facility. Costs have overrun the anticipated budget for this mandatory expense to the County.

2) State Grants - This amendment appropriates \$1420 of grant funds for the Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control program that go to offset salary expenses. The grant requires matching funds from the County in the amount of \$308, which will be transferred from the Reserve for Matching Funds line item in the Contingency Budget.

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
109910 599100	Contingency		\$45,000
104379 569002	Div. of Youth Services	\$45,000	

**Department Justification:** (Please provide detailed explanation)

Costs for housing juveniles higher than anticipated.

**Commissioners' Comments**

**Meeting Notes**

Commissioner Coulson stated he would like to add an item to the next agenda. He would like for the Board to reconsider holding night meetings.

He also asked for the procedure on closed session minutes. Ms. Banks stated that she writes closed session minutes and brings them to the Board for approval. Following the Board's approval, the Manager and Attorney have to agree that the items in the closed session minutes are appropriate for opening for public inspection. The open minutes are placed in one book and the closed session minutes are placed in a separate book. Commissioner Coulson said the last closed session minutes should be made available to the public immediately.

Commissioner Coulson **motioned** to make the minutes public from the last closed session where personnel action was taken, immediately. The motion received no second.

Commissioner Johnson stated he was concerned about the editorial in yesterday's paper that alluded to poor management and poor planning for the County. He said that raising taxes does not necessarily mean you are moving forward.

Commissioner Bowen said he would like to see everything made public involving salaries, but he does not want to do anything that would get the Board in any trouble.

Vice Chairwoman Ward said that the newspaper implied that the commissioners who did not vote for use of the hospital fund to balance the budget voted for a tax increase and that is not correct. She said there was never a vote taken for or against raising taxes. She said she would support using fund balance for this budget.

Mr. Elliott said the County has been notified that when the hospital funds are liquidated the Local Government Commission would allow the funds to be replenished when funds are available.

No Closed session was held.

**Adjourn**

Chairman Owens announced the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC  
Clerk to the Board