

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA  
JUNE 12, 2002 MINUTES**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Wednesday, June 12, 2002, at 4:00 PM in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Randy Royal, Commissioner

Staff present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager  
Melonie Bryan, Director of Financial Services  
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney  
Susan Banks, Clerk  
John Bulow, Assistant Manager  
Bobby Joyner, Emergency Services Director

**Call to Order**

**Meeting Notes**

Chairman Owens reconvened the meeting stating that his was a continuation from the Tuesday, June 11, 2002 meeting.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:**

**Approve agenda as submitted.**

**Motion made by Commissioner David Hammond.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.**

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

**Commissioners' Comments**

*Continued Discussion and Deliberation of Proposed Fiscal Year 2002-2003 County Budget*

**Meeting Notes**

Mr. Elliott provided the Board with a summary of each EMS Funding Scenario and the requested and recommended funding for each squad. Three options were presented:

- 1) Original recommendation as presented June 10, 2002

- 2) Equalized EMS funding scenario, and
- 3) A new EMS funding scenario entitled "Added Funding per 6/1102."

A comparison was presented on contracting out services versus the County providing the services and itemized funding recommendations on each squad were discussed.

The "Added funding per 6-11-2002" was to help squads by giving them additional funding. The effect of this creates a total shortfall of \$691,456. The first proposal for EMS funding had a total of \$2,112,597 which was stated as the minimum cost to operate the EMS system for the year 2002-2003. The new plan has a total of \$2,652,103 with a shortfall of \$691,456. The difference between the two plans was \$539,506.

Summary Sheet for EMS Funding Recommendation:

Squad	Original Comm Recommended	Add'l Alloc By Mgr	Total	Explanation
Ayden	325,639	0	325,639	N/A
Bell Arthur*	216,648	126,837	343,485	Salaries
Bethel*	274,685	42,692	317,377	Salaries
Eastern Pines	173,950	21,210	195,160	Salaries, Benefits, Vehicles supplies/mat'ls, office supplies, Misc. supplies
Falkland	156,340	4,238	160,578	Overtime, Vehicle Repairs
Farmville	158,468	63,476	221,944	Salaries, Benefits, Overtime, Utilities, Insurance
Fountain	117,749	8,000	125,740	Salaries
Grifton	94,550	60,320	154,870	Salaries
Pactolus*	115,950	198,977	314,927	Salaries
Winterville	206,958	0	206,958	N/A

\*County to provide paid personnel.

NOTE: County to create Rolling Stock Vehicle Replacement Fund at \$240,000. Potential to fund 6 squads. County to consider purchasing defibrillator units for 5 squads for \$92,500.

EMS appropriations for 2002-2003	2,380,443
Greenville	86,500
Emergency Services Office	124,180
Cost of EMS billing	61,000
	2,652,103
3-cent District Tax	1,074,147
Transport Fees	<u>886,500</u>
Shortfall	691,456

The original plan had a shortfall of \$256,341 which would be in reserve. The original plan did not include funds for new vehicles or defibrillators for the 2002-2003.

Mr. Elliott stated that the first proposal prepared by the Committee lived within the fees and taxes.

Commissioner James asked about Falkland. Mr. Elliott said it was not identified as a department that was critical. He said he met with them and they said they could live with the funds appropriated. Bobby Joyner said this would give Falkland some money to hire fulltime staff. Commissioner James said they don't have the support of some of these municipal squads. Commissioner James said people are burnt out because the same people have been doing the same work for twenty years. Vice Chairwoman Ward said the numbers in the red were additional fund that came through after the Manager met with each squad this past Sunday. Mr. Elliott said it includes personnel. Mr. Elliott said those are additional dollars that they need.

Chairman Owens thanked Vice Chairwoman Ward for scrutinizing this budget and stated that the Committee has worked on this plan for months. Chairman Owens suggested the Board go with the new plan that the Manager has presented and not cut the EMS squads.

Ms. Bryan said the budget that the Manager brought to the Board takes \$3,075,000 to fund rescue next year. Mr. Elliott said his proposal includes insurance, travel, utilities and other needs are met. Commissioner Bowen asked about the amount of money they recommended. The recommended budget from Monday includes \$255,000 and \$800,000 in add backs. There is a \$1.1 million difference in the two proposals. The first proposal from the Committee lived within fees and taxes. The Manager was instructed to go back and meet with the squads and come back with a revised budget. Commissioner James said the critical squads did not get the funds. The plan proposed by Vice Chairwoman Ward did not include the \$92,500 defibrillator(s). Mr. Elliott said that of the \$800,000 they did get, \$368,000 went to critical squads, \$160,000 in operating costs, \$100,000 defibrillator, and other additions.

Commissioner James said he was concerned about what will take place and where this money will come from next year. He asked if the County can afford this plan. Ms. Bryan said the very first recommendation, from the Committee, came within their budget and they were still \$256,000 short.

Commissioner Hammond said to have both the tax and the fee is excessive and we are accessing 16.56% in fees along with this proposal. He said he would not support it.

Vice Chairwoman Ward said yesterday when they heard the report, including the rolling stock replacement fund, they did not think the rolling stock replacement was in the first phase of the plan. The State requires the County to tell them how the County is going to assist EMS squads. After the report, Vice Chairwoman Ward was concerned about \$864,000 addition. They went back and looked at the colored sheet and looked at critical squads. This would save them for one year. She said that we are doing one year at a time. She reviewed the additional allocations for each squad. Eastern Pines said \$33,000 more would get them where they needed to be next year. If it is \$864,000 more this year, it will be over \$1million next year. The only difference between the plans in money is \$326,000. Mr. Elliott said that in 2002-03 the County needs to start planning for the implementation of Phase 2 for EMS so the County will not be in the same place next time. He said they need to start looking at call volumes, consolidation and looking for cost efficiencies or we'll be back at the same place. He said he had looked at privatizing rescue but it was cost prohibited.

Commissioner Coulson said this falls under health and safety. He said he looked at other counties and this is long over due. He said the residents of Greenville will not be charged this amount but they probably are already charged eight or nine cents for this service. He offered his support of this plan. Commissioner Johnson said he supports this particular alternative at this time. Commissioner James said that what Commissioner Coulson said is not exactly true. If you take what all the municipalities have and what they put into rescue, there are millions spent by all the towns. Commissioner Coulson encouraged Commissioner James to look at counties of the

same size. Commissioner Coulson said we have been way behind on the funding of EMS. Commissioner Bowen said this plan is going to kill the volunteers. Three squads are already in trouble and this is going to ruin the whole county. He said the County needs to take over the three squads and leave the rest alone. He said he does not know but one or two people who like what Pitt County is doing with rescue services. Commissioner Bowen said Eastern Pines rescue complains but the other squads should not be penalized. Mr. Elliott stated that Medicaid, Medicare and insurance account for 88% of the \$400 rescue call fee being charged.

**Motion:**

**To accept the EMS plan entitled "Added funding per 6/11/02" for 2002-2003 presented by the Manager today with the additional funding from conferences with the squads (Refer to Summary Sheet on EMS as previously provided).**

**Motion made by Vice Chairwoman Beth Ward.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Tom Coulson.**

Commissioner Hammond asked about funding from the municipalities. Mr. Elliott said they are in support of the three-cent rescue tax but they understood that with the tax in place they would not have to fund rescue services. Commissioner Hammond said Mr. Joyner said it needs the support of the municipalities. He said the towns are not going to support rescue and they will withhold their funding because of the \$400 call fee. He said this is another unfunded State mandate. Commissioner James said the State says that the County must assist with rescue. Commissioner James said the only way to do this is to work cooperatively together to serve the citizens of Pitt County and the only way to do that is with participation from volunteers. There are communities that still want use the volunteers and hold fundraisers as they want to and they will be able to keep those funds. Commissioner James said he would support this and continue to look for ways to improve.

**Vote Record:**

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

**Total Yes Votes: 7**

**Total No Votes: 1**

**Motion Passed.**

**Motion:**

**To instruct the EMS committee to propose the ordinance and to expand the membership to include the six squads that are not presently represented, including Greenville, and add one county commissioner appointed by the Chairman to the committee.**

**Motion made by Vice Chairwoman Beth Ward.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.**

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

Commissioner James **motioned** that the Council on Aging funding should be funded at the same rate as last year at \$135,000 and the additional \$15,000 should be deleted. Motion failed for lack of a second.

**Motion:**

**Motioned that due to the economics of this year, not to appropriate any additional funds for nonprofits or outside agencies this year more than they received last year.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Glenn Bowen.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner David Hammond.**

**Mr. Elliott asked if this includes the affiliate agencies also. The Board agreed that this was the intention of the motion.**

**Vote Record:**

<b>Beth Ward</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>David Hammond</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glenn Bowen</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Terry Shank</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Eugene James</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>

**Total Yes Votes: 7**

**Total No Votes: 1**

**Motion Passed.**

Commissioner Johnson said that under the Manager's revisions to the proposed budget a \$3600 car allowance was restored for the Assistant County Manager. He was opposed to this action.

**Motion:**

**Motioned that the \$3,600 car allowance for the Assistant Manager be omitted from the 2002-2003 County Budget.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Tom Johnson.**

**Motion seconded by Vice Chairwoman Beth Ward.**

Commissioner Hammond said he supported for John Bulow to continue receiving the car allowance. Commissioner James said if the County requires him to go to meetings, the car allowance should be left in the budget. Commissioner Johnson stated that the County Attorney travels and does not receive a car allowance. He stated Ms. Burgdorff travels to Raleigh on County Board business. Mr. Elliott stated that when traveling outside of the County, staff is eligible to receive mileage reimbursement.

**Vote Record:**

<b>Beth Ward</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glenn Bowen</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>David Hammond</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Eugene James</b>	<b>No</b>

**Total Yes Votes: 5**

**Total No Votes: 3**

**Motion Passed.**

**Adjourn**

**Motion:**

**Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:05 p.m.**

**Motion made by Commissioner David Hammond.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.  
Motion Passed Unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC  
Clerk to the Board