

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 19, 2003 MINUTES**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, May 19, 2003, at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

Beth Ward, Chairman
Eugene James, Vice Chairman
John Minges, Commissioner
Jimmy Garris, Commissioner
Mark Owens, Jr., Commissioner
Glenn Bowen, Commissioner
Tom Coulson, Commissioner
David Hammond, Commissioner
Randy Royal, Commissioner

Staff present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager
Susan Banks, Clerk to the Board
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney
Melonie Bryan, Deputy County Manager/Financial Services
Glenn Cutrell, Tax Assessor
Phil Dickerson, Deputy County Manager/Public Services
Duane Holder, Mental Health
John Morrow, Director/Health Department
Jeff Niebauer, Tax Collector
John Bulow, Deputy County Manager/Human Services

Call to Order

Chairman Ward welcomed everyone present and viewing in the television audience.

Invocation and Pledge

The invocation was offered by Vice Chairman James.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Minges.

Approval of Agenda

Motion:

Motion to approve agenda with the removal of appointments to the Greenville Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion made by Commissioner David Hammond.

Motion seconded by Commissioner John Minges.

Vice Chairman James asked to remove item for decision # 6, Appointment to the Greenville Planning and Zoning Commission because there are not enough applicants for the seats.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Motion to add to the agenda under items for decision a request for a letter of support for Physicians East's application for a certificate of need for a MRI machine.

Motion made by Commissioner Glenn Bowen.

Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Motion to accept agenda as amended.

Motion made by Commissioner David Hammond.

Motion seconded by Commissioner John Minges.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Public Addresses to the Board

Meeting Notes

Don Mills serving as Chairman of Board of Chamber of Commerce spoke about the Education Compact. Thanked for commitment by Board of funding for compact. Pacesetter in the State and staying with the commitment each year. Encourage to fund \$1.8 million in compact. Education is economic development. Several members were present at Monday's meeting with school board. Fund immediate and short term needs. Consider best alternative for funding. Education cabinet and Board of Directors offered the resolution Partners in Education (PIE). He presented a resolution to the Board requesting full funding for Pitt County Schools based on the Education Compact.

Tom Johnson, Sr. encouraged the Board to fund the Education Compact. In capital needs, he stated he thought that the County should fund the construction of a Social Services building which has staff located in five different areas. He stated that the capital needs could be funded by having a bond referendum in November. The last bond issue failed in the amount of \$31.8 million bond, so the Board should choose \$30 million to assure approval of the bond referendum.

Kathy Ipock, resides at Ford Road in Bethel, stated that the Town of Bethel will approach the Board of Commissioners asking for another mile in their extra territorial jurisdiction. She said the residents do not want it and it does not benefit anyone that lives in that area. She said they do not have representation on the Town Council and they cannot vote for the Town Council. She said they can vote for County Commissioners. She stated there is no reason for the extension of the ETJ. Bethel is losing people based on the census. She said they are a small community, but the Town Council has turned down businesses that would have come to this community and helped the economy. The entire community has lost income. She was adamantly opposed to the additional one mile extension of the ETJ for the Town of Bethel.

Thomas McMillan lives in Grifton and said he represents a consortium of private providers in Pitt County. He said the Mental Health area program is responsible for finding private providers for client services. The Consortium is in place and well represented to provide quality care for clients in the area program. He said there is some concern that there might be an effort not to use these services and the community is structured to provide these services and refer to the area program. He said they are certified through the Medicaid program. He said he hoped it would not become a concern. He questioned if some of what is being considered could be interpreted as a conflict of interest. He said he was just trying to give the Board a "heads up" if someone else wished to these provide services.

Nancy Colville, Greenville, spoke about the budget. Citizens are taxed for safety and welfare which should be the priority. Education is a priority but it is not everything. She spoke about the schools capital requests. She stated that the schools capital requests this year is not focused on the classroom but on athletics with over \$5 million requested which surpasses the science labs. She said the Board of Education presented in its local expense requests "uncontrollable" increases to the

Board of County Commissioners which included 2% across the board salary increases, 4.34% teachers supplement, .25% increase in retirement, with increases for coaches, and a projected health insurance increase. She said that private citizens that will have to pay for these increases when they have to as well pay their own health insurance increases. She spoke about increases in fees, taxes and cost of living. She said these expenses are controllable. She said to think about all the other needs of county government in general not just the needs for the children.

Items for Report

Manager's Report - Scott Elliott

Information Provided with the Agenda

Report on Meeting with Pitt County Legislative Delegation
Budget Workshops, May 20, 21, and 22 at 8:30am, Commissioners' Auditorium
Possible additional Budget Workshop dates, May 29-30, at 8:30am, Commissioners' Auditorium

Meeting Notes

Mr. Elliott reported on the meeting with the Pitt County Legislative Delegation in Raleigh.

Six County Commissioners attended and met with the Pitt County Delegation and others of the General Assembly.

They discussed:

- E 911 surcharge for expanded use
- Streamline sales tax - losing major revenue source over things bought over the internet
- Medicaid match - asked to phase this out over 4-5 year period.

Budget Workshops, May 20, 21, and 22 at 8:30am, Commissioners' Auditorium
Possible additional Budget Workshop dates, May 29-30, at 8:30am, Commissioners' Auditorium (Changed to Thursday and Friday)

Report on Appointments to Investment Oversight Committee - Beth Ward

Information Provided with the Agenda

Chairman Ward will report on the members appointed to the Investment Oversight Committee.

Meeting Notes

Chairwoman Ward reported that Commissioner Owens, Commissioner Royal, and Commissioner Garris agreed to serve with Melonie Bryan and Scott Elliott to look at investments. Asked committee to look at current investments and follow what is happening until next quarterly report.

Tax Collection Report - Jeff Niebauer

Information Provided with the Agenda

Monthly tax collections for April were down compared to last year. Overall collection rate remains slightly higher than the previous year. Our office is continuing enforcement actions to collect outstanding taxes.

PITT COUNTY
TAX
COLLECTOR'S

REPORT

SUMMARY OF 2002/2003 INFORMATION:		SUMMARY OF 2001/2002 FOR COMPARISON:		Difference	% Chg	
Tax collection activity Pitt County:						
Total Apr 2003 Collections:	\$984,261	Total Apr 2002 Collections:	\$1,065,227	(80,966)	-7.60	
Total to Date 2002/2003:	\$44,469,347	Total to Date 2001/2002:	\$41,916,335	\$41,916,335	2,553,012	6.09
Pitt County Levy:						
Apr 2003 Levy	\$44,872,147	Apr 2002 Levy	\$42,947,751	\$42,947,751	1,924,396	4.48
Apr 2003 Percent Collected:	93.51	Apr 2002 Percent Collected:	93.50			
Original Levy Supplemental & Vehicle	78.6	96.3	Original Levy Supplemental & Vehicle	79.6	96.1	
Total collection activity all units including Pitt County:						
Total Apr 2003 Collections:	\$1,550,773	Total Apr 2002 Collections:	\$1,643,622	(92,849)	-5.65	
Total to Date 2002/2003	\$69,282,311	Total to Date 2001/2002	\$63,910,249	\$63,910,249	5,372,062	8.41
Garnishments for Apr 2003:	\$219,832	Garnishments for Apr 2002:	\$216,514	3,318	1.53	
Bankruptcy for Apr 2003:	\$3,370	Bankruptcy for Apr 2002:	\$5,185	(\$1,815)		
Occupancy for Mar 2003:	\$80,278	Occupancy for Mar 2002:	\$93,676	(\$13,398)	14.30	
Occupancy Total to Date 02/03:	763,584	Occupancy Total to Date 01/02:	\$742,872	20,712	2.79	
Gross Receipts Mar 2003	\$11,119	Gross Receipts Mar 2002	\$11,842	(\$723)	-6.11	
Gross Receipts total to Date	\$109,102	Gross Receipts total to Date	\$114,483	(\$5,381)	-4.70	

STATEMENT OF
TAXES COLLECTED
BY THE PITT
COUNTY TAX
COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

2002 - 2003

TAXING UNIT	APRIL 2003	TOTAL TO DATE
Pitt County		
Current Taxes	745,279.93	41,875,886.57
Prior Years	93,779.72	1,886,483.50
Interest/Cost	56,528.03	530,320.14
Prepay	88,673.08	176,656.92
Total Collected	984,260.76	44,469,347.13
Landfill Fees	55,049.28	3,701,714.05
Ayden Fire	1,405.83	44,467.12
Ayden Rescue	135.59	1,286.30
Bell Arthur Fire	1,867.38	57,365.96
Bell Arthur Rescue	93.82	1,965.06
Black Jack Fire	500.96	21,217.20
Clarks Neck Fire	760.86	17,777.73
Eastern Pines Fire	2,380.58	98,600.06
Eastern Pines Rescue 304.27		2,818.09
Falkland Fire	844.52	53,692.01
Farmville Fire	961.97	32,205.01
Fountain Fire	318.81	14,658.61
Grimesland Fire	721.79	25,429.12
Pactolus Fire	1,260.46	7,484.43
Red Oak Fire	1,231.10	56,172.24
Simpson Fire	1,858.50	59,139.81
Staton House Fire	1,193.60	124,656.92
Stokes Fire	871.28	27,539.94
Winterville Fire	1,940.85	69,574.11
Grifton Fire	982.70	46,330.35
Gardnerville Fire	1,137.26	35,068.00
Pitt EMS	18,897.50	954,718.00
Ayden Town	10,822.82	120,111.44
Bethel Town	7,933.97	257,829.66
Falkland Town	169.11	10,351.80
Farmville Town	14,162.62	132,691.50
Fountain Town	1,315.34	12,419.19
Grifton Town	4,843.36	62,560.04

Grimesland Town	1,501.44	47,377.12
Simpson Village	1,250.83	63,525.87
Winterville Town	15,109.69	143,883.51
City of Greenville	414,684.33	18,508,333.56
GRAND TOTAL	1,550,773.18	69,282,310.94

COMPARISON OF
PERCENTAGES
COLLECTED

Apr-03	Apr-02
93.51%	93.50%

OCCUPANCY FOR
MAR 2003 -
91,013.56
BANKRUPTCY FOR
APR 2003 -
3,369.58
GARNISHMENTS
FOR APR 2003 -
219,832.26
GROSS RECEIPT
FOR MAR 2003 -
11,118.71

Motion:

Approve as submitted.

Motion made by Commissioner David Hammond.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Garris.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Achievement of Certification - Jeff Niebauer - Tax Collector - Melonie Bryan

Information Provided with the Agenda

At the April 16, 2003 meeting of the North Carolina Tax Collectors' Association, Jeff Niebauer was presented with his Tax Collector Certification. To receive this official certification, you must hold the position of Tax Collector for a minimum of 2 years, commit to 10 hours annually of continuing professional education and complete a mix of 5 required and elective courses as established by the association such as the Fundamentals of Tax Collection and other courses offered through the Institute of Government and East Carolina University. He has been working on his Master's degree and much of that coursework was eligible to count towards attaining this certification.

Items for Consent

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion:

**Motion to approve the consent agenda without items 1 and 7. These items would be placed on items for decision. Items to Adopt Resolution in opposition of House Bill 1009 - Alcohol Beverage Control Study Bill and ATM in the Courthouse.
Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.
Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.**

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Refunds Greater Than \$100 - Glenn Cutrell

Information Provided with the Agenda

Total Number of Refunds Greater Than \$100 - (5) - \$ 1,185.20

Dawson, George Ray - \$ 233.57
Ebron, Hyman - \$ 237.74
Gaskins, James Kipling & wf Teresa Johnson - \$ 176.64
Rivero, Giovanni Jose - \$ 199.07
Smith, Danny Wayne - \$ 338.18

Motion:

**Approve as submitted.
Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.
Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.**

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Budget Amendment - Health Department - \$11,058.00 - John H. Morrow

Information Provided with the Agenda

Increased funding in the amount of \$11,058.00 from NC DHHS Women's, Infants and Children's Division, due to increased reimbursement rate per participant for FY 02/03.

65 Pitt County Budget Amendment Request
 Finance

INVOICE NO:
DATE: June 10, 2003

Department: Health WIC programs Date of Request: May 5, 2003

FY Budget: FY 02/03

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
153168 436500	DHHS Funds	2764.00	
155168 523000	Medical & Technical Supplies	525.00	

155168 526000	Office Supplies	2100.00
155168 534100	Printing	139.00
153169 436500	DHHS Funds	1106.00
155169 523000	Medical & Technical Supplies	1000.00
155169 534100	Printing	106.00
153170 436500	DHHS Funds	7188.00
155170 526000	Office Supplies	5000.00
155170 534100	Printing	2188.00

Department Justification: Increased funding from NC DHHS due to increased caseload allocation and increased reimbursement rate per participant for FY 02/03.

Recommendation – Approved budget amendment as presented.

* Denotes new account number.

Motion:

**Approve Budget Amendment as presented.
 Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.
 Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.**

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Budget Amendment-Mental Health (Early Intervention) - \$175,000 - Duane Holder

Information Provided with the Agenda

This budget amendment is for the transfer of 100% Medicaid funded contracted services dollars in the amount of \$175,000 from the Child & Family contracts cost center to the Early Intervention cost center. Currently, Child & Family service contracts are not being utilized at the projected level and there has been an increase in the amount of Medicaid billed services provided in the Early Intervention program. This amendment is a transfer across programs and does not affect the department bottom line.

Pitt County
 Finance

Budget Amendment Request
 DATE: June 10, 2003

Department: Mental Health Date of Request: 5/8/03

FY Budget: 02-03

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
193247 434000	Medicaid	175,000	
193237 434000	Medicaid		175,000
195247 561000	Contracted Services	175,000	
195237 561000	Contracted Services		175,000

Department Justification: (Please provide detailed explanation)

Transfer of Medicaid funded contract services between Child & Family and Early Intervention services. Under-utilization in Child & over-utilization in Early Intervention has created this need. There is no bottom line increase/decrease to the fund. dth

Motion:

Approve amendment as presented.
Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.
Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Budget Amendment - Register of Deeds - \$11,500 - Melonie Bryan

Information Provided with the Agenda

The Register of Deeds has experienced an increase in fees collected this year due to the increased number of real estate refinancings. As a result, the amount required by the State to be paid to a supplemental retirement fund for Registers of Deeds has also increased. This mandatory payment is 4.5% of fees collected. This budget amendment appropriates the revenues we have received and the related expense in Supplemental Retirement.

Pitt County
Finance

Budget Amendment Request
DATE: June 10, 2003

Department: Register of Deeds Date of Request: 5/1/03

FY Budget: 02-03

ACCOUNT NO.	TITLE OF ACCOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE
102500 440200	Register of Deeds Fees	11,500	
104180 518202	Supplemental Retirement	11,500	

Department Justification: (Please provide detailed explanation)

The Register of Deeds has experienced an increase in fees collected this year due to the increased number of real estate refinancings. As a result, the amount required by the State to be paid to a supplemental retirement fund for Registers of Deeds has also increased. This mandatory payment is 4.5% of fees collected. This budget amendment appropriates the revenues we have received and related expense in Supplemental Retirement.

Motion:

**Approval of budget amendment as submitted.
Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.
Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.**

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Rivers & Associates Contract to Plan for Alternatives for Capacity Use Public Waters Supplies - Phil Dickerson

Information Provided with the Agenda

The Contract has been discussed at three or four previous meetings. Attached is a summary of the work to be accomplished. The budget for the Contract is \$80,000. The cost is evenly split between a Rural Center Grant and County funds.

**Evaluation of Alternatives For Capacity Use
Public Water Supplies in Pitt County, NC
Expenditures**

A.	Lead team, administer contract, invoice/pay bills, organize meetings and distribute minutes.	10,000
B.	Review Ave. Day and Max Day Demands for each system, based on previous reports, the most recent Water Supply Plans and contact with the systems. Include estimates for 2020 and 2050.	4,000
C.	Review compliance with Capacity Use Area Rule including base rates for systems in Pitt County. Discuss major water supply sources available for 2020 and 2050. Discuss the use of ASR to supplement and extend the Tar River Water Supply in Pitt County. Discuss water conservation needs in Pitt County.	6,000
D.	Review the water supply options for the systems in Pitt County with discussions of each system's top two options and current plans. Exclude Grimesland now in the PeeDee Aquifer.	3,000
E.	Provide Preliminary Design for major water supply options including GUC Tar River Water Treatment Plant, Neuse River Water and Sewer Authority (NRWASA) Water Treatment Plant, and Eastern Pines Water Corporation Castle Hayne Water Treatment Plant. Include a cost estimate for transmission mains, pumping stations, etc. needed to connect the water GUC and NRWASA supplies to the water systems in Pitt County.	33,000
F.	Provide preliminary costs for PeeDee Aquifer blending wells where	3,000

applicable. Provide preliminary costs for water from Washington/Beaufort County where applicable. Provide discussion of the feasibility of using Eagle Water and the Roanoke River as sources of supply in the near future.

G. Provide discussion about setting up an organizational structure to assist in funding for the facilities needed to provide adequate water throughout Pitt County.	6,000
H. Provide final report to document the results of the study with drawings showing the locations of facilities, cost estimates and impact on the user fees.	12,000
I. Revise the Report in response to Owner's and other parties' comments as appropriate, and furnish four (4) final copies of the revised Report to the Owner, and Agency.	3,000
Total Expenditures:	\$80,000

Revenues

The Rural Center – Capacity Building Grant	40,000
Pitt County – Local Contribution	40,000
Total Revenues	\$80,000

Project Schedule

Execute Engineering Contract	May, 2003
Begin Study	June, 2003
Submit Draft Report	November, 2003
Revise Report and Submit Final Report	December, 2003

Motion:

Authorize the Chairman to execute a Contract with The Rural Center for the \$40,000 grant and to execute the Contract with Rivers and Associates after the contract with The Rural Center is executed.

Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.

Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes - Susan Banks

Information Provided with the Agenda

May 5, 2003

Motion:

Motion to approve minutes from May 5, 2003 meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.

Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Items for Decision

Adopt Resolution in Opposition of House Bill 1009 - Alcohol Beverage Control Study Bill - Scott Elliott

Information Provided with the Agenda

Attached is a letter from Ms. Joan Respass, ABC Administrator requesting the Board of Commissioners adopt the attached resolution speaking in opposition of the HB 1009 and "supports the current system for sale and distribution of spirituous liquor and desires to retain the Pitt County Alcohol Beverage Control Board as it has operated past and present."

**A RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL**

WHEREAS, the people of **Pitt County** voted to permit the sale of spirituous liquor through the establishment of the **Pitt County Alcohol Beverage Control Board**, which is part of the State's control system for the sale of spirituous liquors; and

WHEREAS, the **Pitt County Alcohol Beverage Control Board** makes spirituous liquor available to consumers through local ABC stores while curtailing the imtemperate use of alcohol through control over the distribution, sale and advertisement of spirits; and

WHEREAS, the State's ABC system is self-sufficient in that consumers of spirits pay for the cost of operating the State ABC Commission and for the distribution and sale of spirits; and

WHEREAS, the **Pitt County Alcohol Beverage Control Board** generates substantial revenue for **Pitt County**, and will contribute in the 2002-2003 fiscal year \$700,000 to its general fund, approximately \$80,000 for alcohol education and rehabilitation, and approximately \$175,000 for alcohol law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1009 (ABC Study Commission) has been introduced in the 2003 Session of the General Assembly to require the study of, among other things, "whether the current method of regulating the sale and distribution of alcohol beverages, and specifically the sale and distribution of fortified wine and spirituous liquor, in North Carolina is the most effective and efficient method as compared to different systems in other states".

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

The **Pitt County Board of Commissioners** supports the present control system for the sale and distribution of spirituous liquor and desires to retain the **Pitt County Alcohol Beverage Control Board** as it has operated past and present.

Signed: _____
Chairman
Pitt County Board of Commissioners

Attest: _____ Date: _____

Meeting Notes

Commissioner Bowen spoke against the resolution proposed by the ABC Board stating opposition to a study being done by the State. He said he thought this study could show how the county could make more money in Pitt County. Commissioner Owens stated his support of the resolution because they believe the State is looking at privatizing the sale of liquor and he believes the County would lose control and could lose \$600,000 to \$1 million a year. Commissioner Garris said that the letter says it could mean a loss of local revenue but the study is to come up with a more effective and efficient way to process the sale of alcohol. He said if it means a better way to do this then he is in support of the study but if the study means the County will lose revenue, he is opposed to the resolution. Chairman Ward said they would not know until the study is done whether or not the County would lose money. Vice Chairman James asked Ms. Burgdorff what her opinion is about this study and resolution. Ms. Burgdorff said the ABC Board wants this Board to oppose the bill and not support the study for the General Assembly. They will be studying whether it's a good idea to change the process. She said it depends on whether the County wants the study or not. Vice Chairman James said if the State does the study that will open the door for them to take the County revenue. Commissioner Hammond spoke in support of the resolution. He said he met with Marvin Speight, a past ABC Board member, who recommended the Board oppose this proposed bill. Commissioner Bowen said the Board should welcome the opportunity to learn more about this process and this is just a bill to do the study. It is not changing anything but leaves the door open to see if they can better benefit the citizens of Pitt County. Commissioner Coulson said if it is approved it will be a blanket approval and it will stop them at looking at doing anything more efficient. He said the Legislature can stop the County from getting the money at any time. Commissioner Bowen asked Ms. Burgdorff to tell the Board about House Bill 1009. Ms. Burgdorff said she had not read the bill at this time but could get a copy shortly and report to the Board. Commissioner Bowen said he wanted to know if everyone understands that this bill just approves the study of the sale of alcohol. The consensus was that everyone believed the bill was approving only a study.

Motion:

Approve adoption of Resolution in opposition of House Bill 1009 as submitted by the ABC Board.

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Owens, Jr.

Motion seconded by Commissioner David Hammond.

Vote Record:

John Minges	Yes
Jimmy Garris	No
Mark Owens, Jr.	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Glenn Bowen	No
Tom Coulson	No
David Hammond	Yes
Eugene James	Yes
Randy Royal	Yes

Total Yes Votes: 6

Total No Votes: 3

Motion Passed.

ATM in the Courthouse - item was tabled until a later meeting. - Phil Dickerson

Information Provided with the Agenda

Dr. Hazel J. Brown, a local dentist, has requested that her company be allowed to place an ATM in the Courthouse. The proposal includes the following:

- 1) The ATM user will be charged a \$2.00 transaction fee
- 2) The County will receive \$0.50 of that fee
- 3) Dr. Brown will pay all costs of installing and maintaining the ATM

The Superior Court Judges, the District Court Judges, Clerk of Superior Court and the Register of Deeds support the proposal.

Motion:

Motion to table the request to authorize the County Manager to execute an agreement with Dr. Brown's company for placing and maintaining an ATM in the Courthouse.

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Owens, Jr.

Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Letter of Support for MRI for Physician's East - Glenn Bowen

Meeting Notes

Commissioner Bowen stated he had received a letter from Physicians East asking for the Board's support of their application for a Certificate of Need for an additional MRI machine in Pitt County. Commissioner James stated his support saying that competition is good for Pitt County Memorial Hospital who has the one MRI machine in Pitt County. Commissioner Royal stated that the Board should consult with the Chief Executive Officer of Pitt County Memorial Hospital, Mr. Dave McRae, before taking action on this item. Commissioner Minges questioned whether Physicians East will take uninsured or Medicaid clients and stated it could significantly affect the hospital by who gets the MRI. Commissioner Coulson said he had to wait three weeks for an MRI test while being in a great deal of pain because of the lack of MRI machines and supported this request. Commissioner Garris questioned who would pay for the MRI machine. Commissioner Bowen stated Physicians East would pay for the MRI. Commissioner Owens stated his agreement with Commissioner Royal and that the Board needs all the information before making a decision on this matter. Discussion continued about this request. Mr. Elliott stated that this was discussed last fall and thought that the Hospital may have applied for a second MRI machine.

Motion:

Motion to send a letter supporting Physicians East's application for a certificate of need for a MRI machine.

Motion made by Commissioner Glenn Bowen.

Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.

Vote Record:

Jimmy Garris	Yes
John Minges	No
Mark Owens, Jr.	Yes
Beth Ward	No
Glenn Bowen	Yes
Tom Coulson	Yes
David Hammond	No
Eugene James	Yes
Randy Royal	No

Total Yes Votes: 5

Total No Votes: 4
Motion Passed.

Formation and Appointments to Wild Game Advisory Committee - Scott Elliott

Information Provided with the Agenda

The Board voted to create a committee to review the Fox Trapping Legislation on March 24, 2003.

The Clerk advertised for interested citizens to serve on the Wild Game Advisory Committee. The list of applicants is attached and commissioners have received copies of all applications. Applications were reviewed for interest and position. The following is the recommendation for the committee:

Gus Keel - Veterinarian
Jimmy Garris or Eugene James - County Commissioner
Rooney Haddock - Neutral
Carlton Dawson - Neutral
Grayden Jackson - In Favor of Fox Trapping Legislation
Bill Young - In Favor of Fox Trapping Legislation
Reggie Edwards - Against Fox Trapping Legislation
Marti Tripp-Brinson - Against Fox Trapping Legislation

It is not customary to have youth serve on these committees but would like the Board to consider allowing Ms. Cassie Fuller to be an honorary non-voting member on this committee.

The Manager also recommends that John Bulow be added as a liaison non-voting member to this committee. Staff would be able to help facilitate meetings.

Meeting Notes

Mr. Elliott stated that this committee had been advertised and a recommendation had been prepared for the Board.

Motion:

Motion to accept the composition of the Wild Game Advisory Committee and appoint the recommended individuals.

Motion made by Commissioner David Hammond.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Garris.

Commissioner Bowen said that a commissioner told him there was one person being recommended as a neutral member but they were not neutral. Vice Chairman James said he had made the comment about a member that is a fox dog breeder and he is not going to be in favor of traps. Commissioner Bowen suggested that member be removed and replaced with someone else. Vice Chairman James said he did not care about removing this person but and he understood it was supposed to be 1/2 in favor and 1/2 against fox trapping on this committee.

Motion to appoint Gus Keel, Jimmy Garris, Eugene James, Rooney Haddock, Carlton Dawson, Grayden Jackson, Bill Young, Reggie Edwards and Marti Tripp-Brinson to serve on the Wild Game Advisory Committee.

Motion made by Commissioner Glenn Bowen.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Mark Owens, Jr.

Commissioner Minges said Carlton Dawson is the gentleman that is the fox hound breeder. He also asked that Cassie Fuller, who was the young lady that came before the board, be placed on this committee as an honorary member in a non-voting member status. Commissioner Bowen did not accept that as an add on to his motion. He said it would throw the balance off and she is highly vocal. He said he appreciated her concern but the committee should be even and her step father is already on the committee. He said the other members would feel the committee was stacked to one side.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Motion to add John Bulow as the staff liaison to the Wild Game Advisory Committee.

Motion made by Commissioner Jimmy Garris.

Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.

Commissioner Garris stated that he and Vice Chairman James had discussed as what they thought the immediate objective is for this committee as follows: To develop and present a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on how to best manage the fox population in Pitt County. Vice Chairman James said he would like Mr. Bulow to be prepared to take the minutes for this committee.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Appointment to the Convention & Visitors Authority - Susan Banks

Information Provided with the Agenda

Kathryn Yorke's term expires on 6/30/03. According to our records, Ms. Yorke is eligible for reappointment.

The Convention & Visitors Authority holds bimonthly meetings. Kathryn Yorke has attended 10 of the last 12 meetings held since March 2001.

Motion:

Motion to reappoint of Kathryn Yorke to the Convention and Visitor's Authority.

Motion made by Commissioner John Minges.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Garris.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Appointment to the Greenville Board of Adjustment - Susan Banks

Information Provided with the Agenda

Rudolph Alexander and Joe Wright's terms expire 6/30/03 on the Greenville Board of Adjustment. According to our records Mr. Alexander and Mr. Wright are both eligible for reappointment.

Rudolph Alexander has attended 11 out of 15 meetings.

Joe Wright has attended 11 out of 14 meetings.

Motion:

Motion to reappoint Rudolph Alexander and Joe Wright to the Greenville Board of Adjustment.

Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Glenn Bowen.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Appointment to the Greenville Utilities Commission - Susan Banks

Information Provided with the Agenda

Charles Davis' term on the Greenville Utilities Commission will expire 6/30/03. According to our records, Mr. Davis is not eligible for reappointment due to serving the maximum number of terms.

Motion:

Motion to appoint Lynn Evans to the Greenville Utilities Commission.

Motion made by Commissioner John Minges.

Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.

Commissioner Bowen asked for information on Lynn Evans. Commissioners Garris and James spoke in support of Mr. Evans.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Appointments to the Board of Health - Susan Banks

Information Provided with the Agenda

Rachel Cherrier- seat # 2 has resigned from the Board of Health.

Robert Ogden, pharmacist, - seat #3 and Lady Aycock, optometrist- seat #1 are approaching expiration. According to our records both members have served one term.

Robert Ogden - attended 8 out of 10 meetings in 2002, 80%.

Lady Aycock - attended 7 out of 10 meetings in 2002, 70%.

Motion:

Motion for reappointment of Robert Ogden and Lady Aycock for a term which expires June 30, 2006.

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Owens, Jr.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Randy Royal.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Motion to appoint Tom Johnson, Sr. to fill a term which expires April 30, 2006.

Motion made by Commissioner John Minges.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Randy Royal.

Vote Record:

John Minges	Yes
Jimmy Garris	Yes
Mark Owens, Jr.	Yes
Beth Ward	Yes
Glenn Bowen	No
Tom Coulson	Yes

David Hammond Yes
Eugene James Yes
Randy Royal Yes

Total Yes Votes: 8
Total No Votes: 1
Motion Passed.

*Appointments to the Greenville Planning & Zoning Commission - **Item was tabled due to lack of applications.** - Susan Banks*

Information Provided with the Agenda

1. Kenneth Wilson's term will expire 6/30/03. He has served two full terms and is not eligible for reappointment. Mr. Wilson has attended 14 out of 16 meetings.

2. Bobby Harrington has served one full term, which will expire on 6/30/03. Mr. Harrington's attendance does not meet the Board's attendance requirements to be eligible for reappointment. Mr. Harrington has attended 10 out of 16 meetings. Mr. Harrington has had health problems which have affected his ability to attend meetings.

3. Thomas Hines is an alternate member and has resigned from this commission.

A list of Interested applicants is attached for review. (Joe Wright is already serving on the Greenville Board of Adjustment.)

Items for Discussion

Preliminary Budget Overview for FY 03-04 & Review of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - Scott Elliott

Information Provided with the Agenda

Staff will present the preliminary budget for FY 03-04 as well as go over the CIP needs of the County. Within this presentation, you will be presented with budget information such as proposed appropriations by departmental function (i.e. Education, Safety, etc.) as well as the line item budgets for each department.

Concerning the County's CIP, staff will present and cover such as the comprehensive projects list, debt capacity, revenue sources, financing methods, etc.

As in past years, all budget information will be given to the Board on the day of the meeting. This then allows Board members to develop questions for the following budget work sessions to be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Meeting Notes

Mr. Elliott provided the 2003-2004 Preliminary Budget and stated that the line item detail report is available. He stated that the workshops will begin Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Auditorium and will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for department requests. Staff will be glad to pull other information together as requested.

Ms. Bryan stated the following:

Current budget Update

- \$180.5 Million Revised Budget
- .68¢ – Ad Valorem tax rate (for general government operations)

- \$ 6.7 Billion Tax Base

Ms. Bryan provided tax rate and tax base comparisons for other counties noting that Pitt County has a lower than average base with an average tax and is providing a high level of services.

- Valuation Per Capita for Pitt County - \$49,727
- The components of the County Tax Bill
- .68¢ Ad Valorem (1.5¢ dedicated to Industrial Development)
 - .03 cent tax for EMS (4¢ proposed)
 - 0-7.5¢ Fire District Tax
 - \$65 Residential Waste Fee (\$63 proposed)

Some fire districts have a tax while others may not have a tax.

Ms. Bryan reported on the Fiscal Year 2003-03 Performance stating that there is a shortfall of \$5,754,756. This shortfall represents actual spending of fund balance/hospital portfolio. In fiscal year 2002-03, there was \$9,078,612 budgeted from fund balance and \$5,754,756 estimated will be spent from fund balance. The Manager is recommending \$9,612,732 of fund balance be appropriated to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004. The following reflects the history of use of fund balance since 2000.

Fund Balance % History

	W/O PCMH	TOTAL FB	
■ FY 00-01	17.77%	45.11%	(\$30M PCMH)
■ FY 01-02	10.64%	40.08%	(\$30M PCMH)
■ FY 02-03 Est	10.88%	34.41% Est	(\$24M PCMH)
■ FY 03-04 Est	12.59%	27.98% Est	(\$16M PCMH)
■			

- 18-20% Minimum Established as Target for Regular Fund Balance

(General Funds Only)

Ms. Bryan noted that \$5.7 million will be spent out of fund balance this year to balance budget with \$16 million balance in the portfolio. Revaluation will be reflected in the following year. The increase in value of tax base creates the potential for additional revenue in the FY 2004-2005.

Mr. Elliott said that he had reviewed line item budgets with department heads. He stated that \$9.6 million was being looked at for balancing the budget for next year. The budget workshops will be for expansion items as directed by the Board. He stated that if they continue to use the investment portfolio, within two to two and a half more years fund balance will be spent. Mr. Elliott reviewed the priorities previously set by the Board of Commissioners and stated that these priorities were used for his recommendation on the budget. He said county government has cut budgets, travel has been frozen, and hiring has been frozen except for positions that had outside funding. He said the County has had a hold the line budget this past year and he was trying to continue with a hold the line budget. He said they were trying to control what's being spent of fund balance. He stated that they estimated there will be \$1.4 million new money in revenues this year based on increases in property tax, sales tax and investments. He stated the 'growth' represents less than 1.5% which is barely enough to cover uncontrollable increases in cost. The Consumer Price Index stands at 2.6%. He presented the following proposal for fee changes:

Proposed Fee Changes

	Current	Proposed	
Solid Waste	\$65	\$63	Residential Waste, Annual
Animal Control	\$10	\$10	Pickup/Euthanasia N/C Towns Holding 3 Days
EMS Transport	\$400	\$455	ALS II
	\$400	\$350	ALS I
	\$400	\$300	BLS I
	NA	\$100	Treat/No Transport
	NA	\$8.30	Per Mile
Travel Mileage	.365	.360	Per Mile (Mirrors IRS 2003 Rate)

Mr. Elliott presented the growth in major functional expenditure areas as follows:

Service Area	FY 02-03 Amended Budget	FY 03-04 Manager Proposed	% Change
■ General Govt	\$12,398,582	\$12,669,165	+2.18
■ Public Safety	\$19,920,383	\$20,915,622	+5.00
■ Human Svcs	\$57,271,003	\$57,234,865	-0.06
■ Education	\$28,293,249	\$29,389,412	+3.90

He stated that Medicaid came in with a flat number with the \$2 million projection of expenditures over revenues did not pan out as predicted.

He stated there were 46.2 positions request with the Manager only recommending 6.2 positions. Only one or two of the positions are funded through general funds. He stated it was his goal to maintain the employee benefit package as it currently exists. The health insurance is proposed to stay the same and he included a 1.6% cost of living effective in July.

Capital Outlay

Mr. Elliott stated that the only capital outlay proposed was for vehicles. His goal was to keep the total cost to replace the fleet to approximately \$500,000. There were 46 vehicles requested but only 22 recommended by the Manager.

In review of the Affiliate and Non-Affiliate Agencies, Mr. Elliott stated he maintained the current level of funding for affiliate agencies or increased them 2.6% based on the Consumer Price Index. The non-affiliate agency budgets were reduced by 50% except the libraries which their funding was maintained at the current budget. There was no new requests funded or expansion funded in the non-affiliate budgets.

Education funding

Pitt County Schools - \$1,021,250 expansion in new monies
 Education Compact says "strive to meet "

Mr. Elliott said that in the state of the county, local economy, and state of State, he provided the Schools with \$1 million in expansion. This expansion is based on an additional per pupil allocation formula and a 2.6% increase in the base local expense funding for the Board of Education. The County has exceeded the goal of funding the Schools to the top one-third in the State already. The County's goal has been accomplished. He said that the County and the Schools need to

continue to work on the goals of the Education Compact and work towards their achievements. This reduction does not constitute the end of the Education Compact but feels it continues with taking other things into consideration.

Education Funding – Pitt County Schools

- Funding Methodology (“Hold Harmless”)
 - FY 02-03 Current Exp / # Students = Per Pupil
 $\$24,537,249 / 20,688 = \1186.06
 - $\$1186.06 \times 21,003 \text{ students} \times 2.6\%(\text{CPI}) =$

FY 03-04 Recommended Budget

Current Expense	\$25,558,499
Capital Outlay	\$ 750,000
 Net New \$	 \$ 1,021,250

--Exceeding BOCC Compact Goal of Top 33% in Funding.
 --Compact Funding Goal for Year 4 was \$1.8 M.

Education Funding - Pitt Community College

□ Increase Current Expense by 2.6% CPI	\$3,007,206
□ Capital Outlay	<u>\$ 75,000</u>
□ Total	\$3,082,206
□ Requested	\$3,169,976

Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Phil Dickerson presented the following information about the Capital Improvement Plan. He reviewed the current plan and the unmet needs and requests as follows:

Current/Recurring	FY 03-04
○ Schools	\$ 750,000
○ PCC Annual Projects	\$ 75,000
○ Water/Sewer/Gas Projects	\$ 707,438
○ MIS Projects Countywide	\$ 202,000
○ Recurring Capital	<u>\$ 500,000</u>
Total	\$2,234,438

Unmet needs/Requests

Facilities

○ Social Services Facility	\$11,250,000
○ Detention Center Expansion	\$15,000,000
○ Building & Grounds Storage	\$ 600,000
○ Animal Shelter	\$ 800,000

Mr. Dickerson discussed making alterations to the Mental Health Building for use by Social Services. In light of the implementation of the business plan for Mental Health and reduction in employees, it has created some office space in the Mental Health building. Mr. Dickerson also discussed the need for additional space at the Detention Center. They discussed the state, federal and local population in the Detention Center as it relates to generated revenue. Mr. Dickerson stated that the storage space that was at the Technology Incubator (old Prep Shirt Building) was

being constantly reduced due to expansions of the Technology Incubator. There is a need for space for storage of records. He also stated that there was a need for a new Animal Shelter and they were trying to get the expense down from \$800,000 to \$500,000.

Ms. Bryan gave an overview of the debt service with borrowing considerations and financing options as well as potential revenue streams. She noted that the County's debt is at \$87 million or 1.27% of base. She said the County currently has a debt service load of 6.61% as of June 30, 2002, which is considered a low debt service load. She stated that the County could take on the additional capacity of \$460 million in debt. They discussed the debt to tax burden per capita noting that the property tax per capital tax burden is also low compared to the average in counties of 100,000 or greater population.

Mr. Elliott reviewed the next steps. He said they need to fill the deficit hole of \$ 6 million and then use funds left over for the budget noting that this still does not cover any expansion in the budget. The population base will continue to grow. He also reviewed financing options for capital improvement. Options included certificates of participation, general obligation bonds and pay as you go.

Mr. Elliott said the consideration of looking at the possibilities of using the Mental Health facility for Social Services is an option. They need an architect to review those needs and possibilities. They also need a consultant to look at jail capacity and how to better utilize the full capacity of the jail facility. He said the education funding could be looked at with considering funding all of the projects or just a portion of their projects.

Commissioners Comments about the budget presentation:

Commissioner Royal said he would rather wait until tomorrow morning after reviewing all of these materials to make his comments.

Commissioner Garris asked what the amount was of the adopted budget last year. Mr. Elliott said \$174 million which does not include grants or adjustments to State funded programs since the State budget was not adopted until the fall of 2003.

Vice Chairman James wants staff to bring him estimates on what the revaluation would bring in revenues. Mr. Elliott said it would be early November at the earliest that staff will know what revaluation will bring in but staff could provide a projection.

Commissioner Owens said staff should be commended on using the commissioners' priorities. He spoke about Pitt Community College, Pitt County Schools and the innovation of Social Services utilizing space at Mental Health. He asked how much is owed on the federal portion of the Detention Center. Ms. Bryan said no money is owed by Pitt County on the construction of the Detention Center. Ms. Bryan stated that \$5 million more is being spent than income coming from the building. She said the Fund Balance concept is about shot. Mr. Elliott said the County has a 20 year agreement with the federal government to house their prisoners.

Commissioner Hammond said he does not like back door tax increases. He said the 35% increase in values is a tax increase while local municipalities are increasing their tax rates also.

Chairman Ward thanked the staff working on this budget, especially Mr. Elliott and the department heads.

Commissioners' Comments

Meeting Notes

Commissioner Coulson asked about the fee for water runoff and if it would effect County residents. Commissioner Garris said he had called Greenville Utilities Commission, and it will not effect County residents. Commissioner Coulson said he proposed that this Board reconsider night meetings and which he has supported each time. Commissioner Coulson spoke about an individual taking up staff time during the day. He said he had spoken with the Manager and asked in the past that the County Manager to do something about it. He said this time is being expanded instead of

reduced amounts of time. He said he wanted a summation of anytime over an hour by this individual to be presented to the Board of Commissioners to see what the individual is being provided by staff. He said there is too much staff if this there this much time for them to spend with this individual.

Adjourn

Motion:

Motion to adjourn meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Owens, Jr.

Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board