

**PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 20, 2003 MINUTES**

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 20, 2003, at 8:30 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
David Hammond, Commissioner
Randy Royal, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent:

Tom Coulson, Commissioner

Staff present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager
Edward Garrison, DSS Director
Mac Manning, Sheriff
Susan Banks, Clerk
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney
Melonie Bryan, Deputy County Manager/Financial Services
Phil Dickerson, Deputy County Manager/Facility Services
John Bulow, Deputy County Manager/Human Services
Loretta Lewellyn, Budget Administrator
Florida Hardy, Human Resources Director
Mike Taylor, MIS Director

Call to Order

Invocation and Pledge

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

Approval of Agenda

Motion:

**Motion to approve agenda as presented.
Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.
Motion seconded by Commissioner John Minges.**

Commissioner Hammond noted that Commissioner Coulson is absent.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Items for Report

Meeting Notes

Mr. Elliott did an overview of the budget drivers that were presented with the budget on Monday, May 19th.

Items for Decision

Sheriff/Detention - Budget Request - Mac Manning

Meeting Notes

Sheriff Manning stated that his part time funds had been reduced for two years and the department will be over budget this year. He said he would like additional staff for another patrol station in the County but his most pressing need is staff for the Detention Center. The Manager did not budget for these additional staff positions.

In 1997, there were seven more detention officers in the budget. The numbers of positions were cut in 1998 and they were never replaced. A study was done in the past that proved that 14 officers were needed for the new wing. Several out staff members are out including four on military leave and several on medical leave. He said due to the budget there is a hiring freeze on and several of these positions are frozen. Those military positions have been frozen and it has impacted the jail. Inmate census has increased in the jail. From August 1993 to 2002 there has been a 166% increase in inmates in jail. There was an average of 160 inmates in the jail in 1993, with 2002 having an average of 426 inmates. Federal inmate's numbers are not consistent and growth in the jail has impacted employees. He said he is worried about working conditions for employees. Officers say they can barely get a break because they are so short staffed during shifts. They have analyzed staffing needs in the jail and identified that they need 16 detention officers. He said at the very least, in the Manager's recommendation he could give back the employees that were cut in 1998. He said they are at a breaking point.

Commissioner Bowen said he thought staff had been added back a couple of years ago. Sheriff Manning said they had not added any staff back. He said there has been a hiring freeze so he has not been able to fill the military positions because they have to keep those jobs open for them when they come back. Sheriff Manning said he did not think that there would be a pool of detention officers who would want to work part time. Mr. Elliott said the seven positions were not cut but moved from one function to another under the past Sheriff. The Commissioners discussed the positions and the staff for the federal wing of the Detention Center.

The Sheriff said that expenditures and revenues were reduced in sales and services due to no longer providing contracted security for Colonial Mall. Sheriff's Department will get new students mid year. Top notch students that will be fully trained as police corp students. There are financial benefits. There are 88 inmates housed any week this year. Last year they housed 112 inmates per week. The Federal court system impacts the revenue for the Detention Center. If federal inmates drop off, there is more room for local and state inmates but fewer federal funds.

A 20 year agreement exists to house federal inmates with \$1.6 to \$1.8 million per year in revenue. It was discussed that this agreement may need to be reconsidered based on the numbers of the federal inmates in the contract and the terms of the contract. State and local prisoners have been increasing by 13% annually. The Detention Center may be at capacity within 18 months without the federal inmates. The total revenue since 1993 has been \$17 million but \$13 million has been from federal prisoners. Sheriff Manning stated that removing federal inmates is only a temporary solution. The new part that was built with federal funds will hold 96 prisoners. It takes 16 staff to operate that one area. They are staffing the federal section with 12 officers. Sheriff suggested this needs to be researched.

Programs should be designed to help correct the problem.
Average stay is 9.7 days.

Sheriff said there is a critical need for additional officers.

A brief break was taken at this time.

Communications - Budget Request

Meeting Notes

Chairman Ward explained that the agenda order had been changed in light of time so Communications would make the second presentation.

Nate Caddy, 911 Communications Coordinator and Sam Tyson, Assistant Communications Coordinator, made the presentation. Mr. Caddy stated that they were requesting additional staff to meet future challenges now that they were providing emergency medical dispatching for the County and some municipalities.

Known Increases:

- Population increases
- Tele/Cell Increased Demand
- Greenville #5 station may add rescue (currently just fire station)
- Fire Units (3 per Fire)
- Dispatch Time is less than 1 minutes
- Fire First Responders (starting)
- State Fire Office did study - recommends 5 fire dispatchers per shift

Future Challenges:

Continue to serve at current level of expertise and customers satisfaction

- Training Officer
- Operations Officer
- Data Management Specialist
- 4 Telecommunicators on day shift
- 3 Telecommunicators on night shift

Communications Priorities:

- 9 PC's/3 Printers - 911 Surcharge 60%/Wireless Surcharge 40% (Manager approved)
- Training Officer - 100% General funds
- Telecommunicators - (1 telecommunicator approved by Manager) 100% General fund
- Voice Recorder - (approved by Manager) (60% surcharge/40% wireless surcharge)
- Pro QA/Aqua - automatic system, more efficient with less mistakes, 100% General Fund (not funded)
- Expansion of Center - Sheriff will move out of basement and they will expand to 6 consoles. This will require rearrangement of center. (100% General fund) (not funded)
- Their goal is to avoid and minimized triage in emergencies.

With Sheriff's communications moving out, they will have 100% backup but will need more staff to man 6 consoles.

Mr. Caddy discussed with the Board the number of dispatches and how they dispatch for the City of Greenville different from the County of Pitt. They discussed training requirements and

equipment that Pitt County uses, which is standard. The equipment is old but is providing excellent service. Vendors can longer support the equipment.

Social Services - Budget Request - Edward L. Garrison

Meeting Notes

Jennifer Smith, Chairman of Social Services, came before the Board stating that that the Social Services budget is \$60,000 less than the current year. She said it is imperative to approve this budget for their continued efficiencies.

Mr. Garrison, Social Services Director, said this is the 24th budget that he has worked on. He reviewed the mission of the department and their commitment to the people they serve in Pitt County. They administer 40 public assistance and service programs. He reviewed the increases as well as successes in the income maintenance programs. He reported 362 families are receiving public assistance and 451 payments are made for children. The Food Stamps program has increased. He stated with the increase in utility bills it is making it harder for people to pay those bills. He reviewed the service programs stating that the adult protective services is growing more every year. He said the majority of the child protective services investigations dealt with sexual abuse.

	REQUESTED FY 2002-03	MANAGER RECOMMENDS	TOTAL REDUCTIONS
REVENUES			
State & Federal	13,738,625	13,653,276	85,349
Transfer - General Fund	13,813,457	12,656,489	1,156,968
Fees & Charges	658,625	658,223	402
Miscellaneous	13,800	13,800	0
Fund Balance	0	0	0
Total	28,224,507	26,981,788	1,242,719

EXPENDIUTRES			
Personal Services	10,018,547	9,905,012	113,535
Operating Expenses	18,119,460	17,064,276	1,055,184
Capital Outlay	86,500	12,500	74,000
Total	28,224,507	26,981,788	1,242,719

Full Time Equivalent Positions	217	217
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Of the total budget including local, state and federal funds, represents \$170,797,199, with the county operations being \$27,511,964. The County appropriation is \$12,344,534. It is a decrease of \$362,906 (2.9%) from the budget adopted for July 1, 2001. If the Governor cuts back spending in Medicaid for the County it could effect their budget.

County Budget Significant Changes -
Points of Interest and Concerns

Medicaid reduced by \$300,000 based on current spending - projections
Increase Child Support by Two Agents and Revenues by \$25,000
Increase Hospital Revenues- \$12,253
Remove 5 of 8 replacement cars
Remove Adult Services – SW III
Remove Food Stamp - IMC II
Reduce Computer Equipment by \$35,000

Mr. Garrison said he needs to ask for three things.

He asked that the Board allow him to go back to the Manager and find funds in budget to establish the Income Maintenance Caseworker II and Social Worker III positions. The Food Stamp program is increasing drastically. Pitt County has the second largest Food Stamp caseload in the catchment group that they used for comparison. He asked for help in Adult Services, caseload is also second largest in catchment group. He said he is grateful for the Manager's approval of the two Child Support Agents. He said if they are going to continue their commitment to children then they need to assure they receive their assistance due to them. They also feel they have an obligation to the elderly to see to their critical needs that they cannot take care of themselves.

Mr. Garrison stated the need to house the Department of Social Services in one location. He said the situation is desperate and he cannot manage well with staff in five different locations. Commissioner Bowen said there is a bill in Raleigh that would require a deputy to accompany social workers when they to investigate case. Mr. Garrison said he is in support of the House Bill 102 being proposed. In Pitt County, in every case of abuse that carries danger, they have been able to take a law enforcement officer with them. Commissioner Garris commended Mr. Garrison on his presentation. He said Mr. Garrison's request is reasonable. He said if you review the caseload information and the reduced budget. He said he thinks his request is reasonable with the money he is saving in the 2.9% reduction.

Commissioner Hammond asked if there were still children housed in special facilities that cost the County a lot of money. Mr. Garrison said the court ordered placement of that child was very costly to the County. He said Mental Health has helps fund court ordered cases. Chairman Ward said it was interesting that there is a 91% retention rate in the Work First Employment. Mr. Garrison said the program is getting smaller and more difficult to work with because they are now working with people who are not very motivated to work. Mr. Garrison said the private business community needs to be thanked for hiring these people.

Mr. Elliott said that staff will be looking at vehicles at Mental Health to be redistributed with Social Services as they are not needed by Mental Health.

Commissioners' Comments

Meeting Notes

Commissioner Royal said he was pleased with the groups and preparedness of those before the Board this morning. He said he was most pleased with the Social Services report and their holding the line budget. He said they came in under the last two year's budgets and our house is in order.

Vice Chairman James said he supported Commissioner Royal's comments. Commissioner Bowen also stated his agreement with Commissioner Royal's comments and said he hoped everyone understood what the County is going through this year with the budget.

Commissioner Owens said he reaffirmed what has been done with the budget for Social Services and the possible change at Mental Health to help Social Services. He said he would like staff to look at being more favorable with the Schools, Social Services and Sheriff budget requests. He said the population has more than doubled over time and services have been provided and it has made the citizens productive. Commissioner Owens said that the other commissioners should look at the counties that are cutting back on the tax rate are going backwards. He said they need to look at the tax rate from 1974 to 2000 and also look at the increasing costs. There has to be funds to produce.

Commissioner Bowen commented on Dr. Priddy's comments that were in the newspaper today about the Manager's budget recommendation for the schools saying he was "disturbed and disappointed with the Manager." He stated he did not think Dr. Priddy's comments were very professional.

Adjourn

Motion:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Randy Royal.

Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Eugene James.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board