

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA  
MAY 25, 2004 MINUTES

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 25, 2004, at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

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

Staff present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager  
Susan J. Banks, Clerk  
Kathryn Carroll, Assistant County Attorney  
Melonie Bryan, Deputy Manager/Financial Services  
John Bulow, Deputy County Manger/Human Services  
Phil Dickerson, Deputy County Manger/Public Services

**Call to Order**

**Meeting Notes**

Chairman James called the meeting to order.

**Invocation and Pledge**

The Invocation was offered by Commissioner Garris.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Minges.

**Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:**

**Motion to approve the agenda.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Jimmy Garris.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Tom Coulson.**

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

**Items for Discussion**

*Manager's Overview - Scott Elliott*

**Meeting Notes**

Mr. Elliott gave an overview of the morning schedule. He stated he would be providing a detailed explanation on how to deal with unfunded projects and the debt service requirements, revenue sources, alternative revenue sources, projected tax rate over the next five years if

projects are funded. Future revaluations, non-profit agencies funding, and animal control are on the agenda.

### *Budget Discussion*

#### *Sheriff/Detention Budget Requests*

#### **Meeting Notes**

Sheriff Manning said in his budget request 19 new personnel have remained unfunded from previous budget years. He noted that the part-time employees have helped with courtroom security and serving papers. They will be opening the newly renovated courtroom soon which will pose security problems. He need additional funds to hire part-time security officers. He stated the also use them for records clerks. He need two more officers for enforcement of the Hunting ordinance and ATV trespassing violations. The training budget was cut in half three years ago and has never been restored. They use these training funds for traveling to conferences to learn new techniques and procedures. Those funds were easy to cut but have never been brought back to the original funding level. Sheriff Manning said that due to an increase in identity theft which he needs additional help with and he needs additional narcotics officers for the Task Force. The County has not participated on the task force because they have had no officers to contribute to the task force. He stated that the rural part of the county is increasing in development and the people expect to see patrol cars in their areas. Sheriff Manning said they have had to cut back in areas such as no longer serving traffic warrants for minor traffic.

Sheriff Manning spoke to the Board about the overcrowding problems at the Detention Center stating that today there are 452 inmates which is over the 404 bed capacity as well as the functional capacity of 375. He said they do not need to overlook the need for additional detention officers. The costs for medical services, food, and clothes have all increased because of the increase in population. They still need to look at increasing jail space. He said they've asked for 10 additional officers each year but the staffing report says he needs 32 additional officers. He said they have added two officers to administer an electronic monitoring system. The monitoring will help but he does not want to sacrifice public safety. He asked the Board to move forward with the jail construction. He said if they can show an effort to move forward with addressing the overcrowding, they can possibly hold off penalties.

Commissioner Coulson asked if littering is a source of revenue for the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Manning said some portion of those funds filters back to the court system but not to their budget. Commissioner Coulson feels inmates should be charged for being in the jail and for services they receive while there. He questioned the number of deputies he sees in the courthouse. Sheriff Manning said he is required to have at least one bailiff in each courtroom. Officers may also be there to testify in court and are waiting for their turn. Commissioner Coulson asked how many speeding tickets were issued. He questioned if that is the best use of his staff and resources. Sheriff Manning said that the deputies that write tickets are officers of the Governor's Safety STAR program. They find other violations and as well as enforcement of programs. He stated that three positions were funded by the Manager in this budget year. They are now being funded more by the County than by the Governor's grant program. Commissioner Bowen said he had noticed that of the adjoining counties, no one has as nice of a jail facility as Pitt County. Sheriff Manning said Pitt County has overcrowding because the County is growing and other surrounding counties are not experiencing the growth like Pitt County. Commissioner Bowen asked if he had any recommendations to the judges that would help with the housing of inmates. Sheriff Manning said they have already worked with the judges. The judges will furlough inmates during a holiday season but cannot do that all the time. He spoke about violent inmates who need more maximum security space.

Commissioner Bowen asked about selling the jail. Sheriff Manning said it may be the thing to do. If not, parts of the existing jail would have to be raised to standard. If the current jail could be

leased or sold, it may be the best option. The jail has never been staffed as the original staffing recommendations were made.

The State is paying about \$40 per day for backlogged prisoners. The federal contract is more than that and there are some 90+ federal inmates in the jail regularly. If the federal inmates were sent somewhere else, Pitt County would not have the overcrowding problem. Commissioner Minges asked what the obligation is to the federal government. Mr. Elliott said the income is equivalent to two cents on the tax rate. Mr. Elliott said it is not cost effective to give this up and that this is a fifteen year contract which is up around 2012. They are recouping about half of their costs which is very good. He said the Sheriff is working on diversionary programs such as house arrest and a day reporting center is being looked into. Mr. Elliott said the County needs to look at jail construction in order to address the jail population problems. If the government came in and put a mandate on Pitt County about jail population, the quickest least expensive way to address this is to move out the federal inmates which would be a loss of income. Commissioner Garris said the Sheriff has asked for a 22% increase in his request but the Manager has recommended a 10% budget increase.

Commissioner Minges asked about working the inmates. Sheriff said that it is a County jail that has constant turnover rate and would be hard to implement that type of program.

The Sheriff said that the cost of services will go up 10% even with the Manager's recommended budget. Overcrowding is the focus of the letters from the Division of Health and Human Services. Sheriff Manning said the inmates do work inside the Detention Center operating the laundry, preparing meals, and they also pick up paper on roads. Otherwise they have to hire out services. Commissioner Royal asked about the federal program. He said the federal inmates used to be helpful for the County, but now it sounds like it is pushing the inmate numbers up.

Sheriff Manning said that they have 90 federal inmates out of the 452 inmates housed yesterday. He said whatever the Board decides to do, they will manage the population to the best of their ability. Sheriff Manning said these positions have been requested for the last three years. Commissioner Hammond spoke about some counties sharing facilities. Some inmates in Grifton asked to go to Lenoir County because of the food. Commissioner Hammond asked about probation/parole and their functions. He said its cheaper to educate people than incarcerate them. He spoke about kids and school suspension. He said this Board needs to address the issue or they will have to deal with the problem.

Commissioner Ward asked about the cost for housing federal inmates. Sheriff Manning responded that the County receives \$48 daily per inmate but there is a larger impact than just the \$48. He said \$40 out of \$50 goes to housing each inmate which is already included in the \$1.6 million.

Sheriff Manning stated that he is asking for thirty-two additional positions: two court officers, one crime analyst, one SRO supervisor, five detectives, five grant positions, three deputies, one crime prevention officer, one attorney and 14 Detention Center positions. The Manager has recommended two Detention Officers and five new officers in the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Manning said that most of their growth has been through grants. Commissioner Hammond how many officers lost last year? Sheriff Manning stated he had lost two officers to East Carolina University.

The Sheriff said that there are 306 beds in the facility with 380 prisoners today and they would still be over capacity even with the federal inmates removed.

Commissioner James asked the Sheriff to respond to his questions at a later time but that he wanted to know the following:

A breakdown of the cost of housing inmates per week. Sheriff responded \$300 per week.  
Are federal inmates kept separate?  
How many prisoners are being kept because of the City?  
How long a Child Support person stays in the jail?  
Which County pays for child support inmates which stay in for an average of a month.  
Sheriff responded that the Jail fee is set by the State.

Sheriff Manning said he had three grant proposals which were 100% federally funded that needed approval to apply for, from this Board.

TTP for technology  
Project Safe Neighborhood  
Homeland Security

He asked that the Manager be authorized to sign off for on the three pre-applications.

Commissioner Ward asked at what point Pitt County would own those 90 federal beds. Sheriff Manning said they would check into this question.

**Motion:**

**Motion to authorize the Sheriff to submit three pre-applications for grants.**

**Motion made by Commissioner John Mingos.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Beth Ward.**

**Discussion:**

**No county match is required on these three grants.**

**Sheriff Manning stated that these grants include \$1.2 million for homeland security. Sheriff Manning said they are asking to raise the federal inmates fee. Tim Copeland, Detention Center Supervisor said they are negotiating for \$75 per inmate per day with the federal government.**

**Motion Passed Unanimously.**

*Capital Improvement Plan*

**Meeting Notes**

Mr. Elliott suggested a short break before starting the capital improvement discussion.

PROJECTS	Funding Source	FY 03-04 Adopted Budget	FY 04-05 Proposed	FY 05-06 Planning Year	FY 06-07 Planning Year	FY 07-08 Planning Year	FY 08-09 Planning Year	Future Years' Projection
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**UNFUNDED - DECISIONS NEEDED**

**Additional/Alternative Revenues Required**

DSS Facility (renov/addition w/ unfinished 2nd floor)	COP	0	340,000	8,844,809	0	0	0	0
Sheriff - Detention Center Bed Expansion	TBD	0	265,650	43,250,350	0	0	0	0
Pitt County Schools	COP	0	0	17,300,000	0	26,250,000	0	108,300,000
Pitt County Schools	GO	0	0	26,250,000	0	0	0	0
Animal Shelter Expansion	C	0	200,000	0	0	0	0	0
PCC - Humber Building Renovations	C	0	1,400,000	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal - Unfunded - Decisions Needed</b>			<b>2,205,650</b>	95,645,159				

**Future anticipated debt service requirements**

DSS Facility	0	0	210,000	295,000	295,000	295,000	295,000	Continues
Detention Center (Net Borrow \$31,500,000)	0	0	700,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	Continues
Schools	0	0	0	1,137,500	2,827,500	2,827,500	2,827,500	4,607,500

**Future anticipated operating costs**

DSS Facility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Detention Center	0	0	0	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Schools	0	0	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	3,000,000

**Cumulative Tax Increase needed (w/ value of 2004 cent - \$780K)**

0	0.60	6.45	9.25	9.90	--
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**Potential Additional Revenue Sources**

Continuation of 2-cents for construction (1)	20,000	1,566,424	321,249	376,074	430,899	485,723	2,663,580
"Freed" up capacity - retirement of existing debt - gen govt	0	0	0	0	0	1,132,000	6,870,000

"Freed" up capacity - retirement of existing debt - schools	0	0	0	0	1,140,000	1,231,000	6,620,000
New revenue - Land Transfer Tax @ \$250 (3000 transactions)*	0	0	0	750,000	750,000	750,000	3,750,000
New revenue - Impact Fees (2000 Residential Permits x \$250)*	0	0	0	500,000	500,000	500,000	2,500,000
New revenue - Prepared Food Tax*	0	0	0	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	6,000,000
<b>New \$\$ - if all new revenues implemented</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>321,249</b>	<b>2,826,074</b>	<b>4,020,899</b>	<b>5,298,723</b>	<b>28,403,580</b>

Revenue from Growth in the tax base	1,300,000	Reval	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	8,500,000
Growth used annually for "uncontrollable costs" (2)	-700,000	-800,000	-800,000	-800,000	-800,000	-800,000	-4,000,000
Growth in BOE Current Expense Funding (3)	-1,800,000	-683,199	***TBD***	***TBD***	***TBD***	***TBD***	***TBD***

Manager's Projected Revenue Scenario	N/A	N/A	1,221,249	1,776,074	2,970,899	4,248,723	23,153,580
Revenue as "Cents" based on 2004 cent value of \$780k***			1.57	2.28	3.81	5.45	--

\* Requires BOCC or Legislative approval to implement.

\*\*\*This assumption does not include ANY NEW \$\$ to schools - amount TO BE DETERMINED each year.\*\*\*

(1) Utilize amount left in FY03-04 and generated in FY04-05 to fund 1-time projects - Humber Building - PCC (\$1.4m) and Animal Shelter Expansion (\$200k)

(2) Funds needed for uncontrollable increases such as insurance, fuel/utilities, employee benefits, etc.

(3) Current Expense funding for schools has increased each year - average over the past 5 years = \$1.5m/year. Future amounts of growth unknown at this time.

Mr. Elliott reviewed the capital improvement funding as proposed on the preceding chart. He said he needed direction on the major projects listed, funding sources and the next budget year and how to allocate the funds.

DSS facility and Detention Center– first year architectural and engineering plans and construction in the next year.

Schools – financing of schools construction projects for \$17,300,000 is proposed for Certificates of Participation (COPS) for FY2005-06. The \$26,250,000 in capital projects is recommended for FY2005-06 using General Obligation Bonds and \$26,250,000 for FY2007-08 to be funded with Certificates of Participation. He stated if the three figures are added together, the total would address the \$69.8 million requested by the Board of Education for capital projects. He stated that with the County looking at a 70 cents tax rate this year, these projects had to be pushed out a year.

Additional One time projects:

Animal Shelter Expansion/Renovation - \$200,000  
PCC Humber Building funded at \$1.4 million is part of \$2.9 million that is part of the match for State bond funds. There will be \$1.2 million in 2005-06 remaining to be matched.

He said the costs actually come into effect in two years because of planning phases. He also provided anticipated operating costs for the three facilities, Social Services, Animal Shelter and Detention Center as well as \$500,000 operating costs for each new school that would be opened.

Potential Revenue Sources were discussed as follows:

- 2 cent tax increase for capital construction
- General capacity freeing up in 08-09 for \$1.1 million
- School system frees up the year before once some debts are paid off. \$1.4 million in 07-08 with debt being paid off

Require Legislative Approval and could come into effect in 2006-07:

(For illustration purposes only, not recommended in this proposal)

- 1) Charge \$250 for proposed land transfer tax which could raise \$750,000.
- 2) Impact Fees - Charge \$250 would raise \$500,000
- 3) Prepared Food Tax would generate \$1.2 million

He stated that the revenue growth is flat with about \$1.7 million growth in tax base each year. The growth in uncontrollable expenses is estimated around \$700,000 to \$800,000 each year. Growth shown in the Board of Education's current expense funding was explained and starting FY2005-06, Mr. Elliott has proposed that this is yet to be determined because of the uncertainty of the future of the Education Compact II. The committee is currently meeting to address the future compact.

Mr. Elliott noted that there would be a need for a half cent tax increase in FY2005-06 to begin the DSS facility, Detention Center and funding for the Schools capital projects. The FY2006-07 would require a 6.45 cents, FY2007-08 9.25 cents, and FY2008-09 9.90.

He presented a five year tax rate that would have to be implemented to do all of these projects without the next Education Compact. He provided the per penny cost on the tax rate effect is on each project. If you did all these projects, 70 cents recommended this year. He said if you added one penny for a per pupil allocation, it would add \$780,000, two pennies would be around \$1.5 million. The base tax rate would be at 70 cents until 2005-06 but when facilities are opened it begins to increase annually with at one point it increasing four cents. He said this analysis does not leave any general government growth capacity but does allow for

implementation of the proposed facilities. He said he had provided a worse case scenario for five years in the future. He said they tried to paint the whole picture for the Board.

Commissioner James said County government is left out. Commissioner James said there are certain things there are enough money for. Commissioner James said the Education Compact would never had been voted on for the schools if there had not been extra funds from the Hospital. Otherwise the compact would not have been implemented. Mr. Elliott said he is not necessarily proposing all of these plans but provided them for illustration only.

Commissioner Ward said this Board never voted to fully fund the School facilities request or the Detention Center. She said it seems that this Board needs to make a decision about how much money can be put in all of these projects and then how to spread it out over all these years. She said the Manager has had to look at the top dollar, top building and top programs for these projects. She said the Board needs to determine how much money they are going to spend on these projects. She stated the Board will have to look at new revenue sources even if some costs are lowered. She said she liked the presentation without new revenue sources.

Commissioner Hammond said there are a lot of new things in the County in the last few years. He said there are no savings in this budget. This budget does not downgrade any position. What savings has the county had from outsourcing or privatizing programs. He asked for information on reclassified positions. Education Compact when it was done was recognized by the State as one of the greatest things a County has done but economics were good and the County could do that. He said they are hopeful those goals are met. He said this Board decided to be Best in the East or top in the State. He said a lot of money has been spent on rental facilities that the County will never own. He said the County citizens have declared enough is enough. They want this Board to hold the line on taxes and spending and look at every department and for every department to find ways to save money for the citizens. He said that the projection that in FY2008-09 the tax rate will be \$84.5 cents. Mr. Elliott said the base rate would be 74.5 cent and the rest depends on what this Board does for education. He said this was for illustration only, not what he was proposed. Commissioner Hammond said with the increase in funds for schools they still have not gotten rid of trailers and there is a need for the trailers. He noted that education is only one portion of the County budget.

Commissioner Coulson said impact fees are being contested as illegal. The food preparation tax is a slap in the face. If someone buys property, they pay property tax and now we're saying more fees. He opposed the land transfer tax and impact fees. Fees imply a service. State has hurt local governments. This Board needs to actively complain. NCACC should be acting more on the Counties behalf. Government takes more each year. He said he would like to go to Legislature and say enough is enough and Legislature would be forced to be reigned in. The people are tired of taxes. He suggested that the staff look at some other way to balance the budget.

Commissioner Bowen spoke about the Education Compact. He said if the County had not had the funds, there may have been a compact but not with the amount of money involved. He said an additional \$18 million was put into education due to the compact. Last year when State took funds from schools, the schools used the funds the County gave them for maintenance and they used those funds for something else. If anything is done for the schools, it needs to be line itemed out where they cannot use the money for other things.

Commissioner Owens said the Manager has given us options for the Board. He said the Board needs to propose further options. He said the Social Services facility does not need to be considered at \$8.8 million but they should move into the Mental Health Center and make renovations as needed. He said he does not see funding this \$43 million for the Detention Center. He supported the COPS for funding the \$17.3 million for school facilities. The Pitt Community College Humber Building construction will have to fall in place when the revenues fall

into place. He said he does not see doing the Animal Shelter at this time. He asked about the Pitt Community College matching funds. He asked Mr. Elliott if there were other funds that could be applied to this project. Commissioner Owens said they would still be required to do the Pitt Community College building and suggested it be moved to FY2005-06. Commissioner Owens stated that the commissioners need to propose where the new revenues would come from and stated that the State and Federal governments need to help more with the schools. He said the State needs to implement the lottery.

Commissioner Mingos said this Board needs to give the Manager guidance on setting the tax rate and then determine what services could be reduced, if needed. He stated the proposed 70 cents tax rate is holding the line on everything. Every service will still be provided by the County. He said this Board needs some discussion about cutting services or if services stay the same or grow, then how to pay for it. He said they need to consider new revenue sources. He suggested the County fund the Schools on a per pupil fee. He said to have the Education Compact goals that both the County and the Schools should try to achieve. The previous compact was not a guarantee. It said the County would strive to provide additional funds. He said the Board needs the Manager to bring back scenarios on the tax rate. He suggested that the Board look at the Budget on a department by department basis for what could be cut. Of \$180 million budget, only \$65 million is under commissioners' control. He would not be opposed to have some sort of blue ribbon panel to look at this budget. There is a perception in the community that there are numerous ways to cut the budget. He said that that the County can not grow at the rate it is growing and still provide services without revenue. If services are to remain the same, they must decide how to fund it. He stated that a formal motion may be needed to ask the School Board to televise their Board meetings. He requested this be placed on the next Board of Commissioners agenda for consideration.

Commissioner Garris thanked the Manager for providing the Board with these options. He asked if the 70 cents tax rate would fund the capital items in FY2004-05 as presented. Mr. Elliott stated that the 70 cents tax rate would fund them. So he confirmed that if the tax rate is lower, then the capital funds will not be there for those projects. Commissioner Garris expressed concern about overcrowding in the Detention Center. Mr. Elliott said there was a May 15th deadline to respond to the letter from the State. Mr. Elliott also stated that with the proposed \$265,000 there would be funds to further examine this matter and that the Board is looking at the options including conducting staff analysis. Commissioner Garris said he would like to adopt a policy to manage ongoing expenses with no greater increase than the general revenue that is generated each year. Mr. Elliott said there will be fund balance appropriated to balance this budget but with other factors he felt those funds would not have to be spent. The County will maintain a 20% fund balance as directed by the Board.

Commissioner Royal said staff has had to make cuts from FY1999-2000 and the county has continued to grow. The face of poverty is continuing to change. He compared the growth in Pitt County with the growth in Raleigh and how they have tried to keep pace. If this County does not do this at some point poverty will get worse. He said he was opposed to a blue ribbon committee to tell the Board what they already know about this budget. With the County growing 24%, at some point, the Board have to come up with new revenue sources.

Commissioner Ward asked for clarification on the 70 cents tax rate funding the renovation/addition for the Mental Health facility and the second floor option. Mr. Elliott explained that the option that is funded is for the Social Services staff to be moved to the Mental Health building with some renovations, Mental Health staff (LME) would be moved to the County Office Building on the second floor, but the funding is not included for the addition of a second floor on the Mental Health Building. The \$340,000 is for architectural fees and plans for a new building for Social Services. He said they are trying to get Social Services employees out of leased or rented space. The \$265,650 is to show the State that the County is moving toward improvements for the

overcrowding at the Detention Center. The \$200,000 for the Animal Shelter is for an expansion of the facility. The PCC funds \$1.4 million is for renovations for the Humber Building.

Commissioner Hammond said 60% of Pitt County residents live in the municipalities. Most citizens are paying on town and county taxes. Greenville is increasing taxes by five cents and having to address some water issues and added some water impact fees. He said the COPS can be done for capital improvements and salary increases can be done by reclassification of employees. The Board of Equalization and Review will handle revaluation. He suggested that Commissioner Minges suggestion of outsourcing may have some impact. If the Board grants the Manager the permission to hold the tax rate at 70 cents so be it, but the needs are there and they are increasing as this Board discusses the situations. As businesses closing, the County's needs continually increase.

Commissioner Bowen said a lot of the people having to pay these taxes were laid off last year. He asked the Manager about the \$1.4 million for the PCC Humber Building and if it has to be done this year or could it be delayed one year. Mr. Elliott said it can be delayed but the County will have to come up with \$2.6 million to match State bond dollars. If they implement the project this year, the county would have to provide the \$1.4 million in order to get the State matching funds. He said it is optional. Commissioner Minges noted that if it is delayed, the County would have to come up with \$2.6 million in one year. Ms. Bryan said they have \$8 million and the County has to match \$4.4 million. This year is the beginning of the total match commitment required by the County.

Commissioner Bowen asked about fund balance.

Commissioner James supported following up the schools funding on a per pupil allocation in the future. He suggested removing the following items from the budget this year:

- \$340,000 – DSS building
- \$200,000 - Animal Shelter
- \$265,000 - Detention Center

He supported the \$1.4 million this year for PCC.

He asked if the tax rate stays at 70 cents how can he tell the people that their tax rate is not going up 30% with revaluation? Fees have also been increased for inspections, fire and rescue taxes. He said he agrees with Commissioner Coulson to live within the County's means. Pitt County has done a great deal over the years. Ms. Bryan said that there is a \$10 million in total debt service each year. Mr. Elliott said the cap for debt service payments is \$90 million.

Commissioner James said as taxes are raised, it will make it more difficult to recruit new businesses and Pitt County has lost two industries because of taxes. Thousands of citizens are on a fixed income. He said the County has been spending millions more on education but jails continue to increase so he does not understand the connection between the two.

Commissioner Hammond asked about debt service. Mr. Elliott said that the County is at \$90 million but the available debt ceiling could be at \$350 million. Commissioner Hammond asked what the debt service would be annually for \$300 million. Mr. Bryan said it would be about \$30 million.

Commissioner Ward spoke to the \$200,000 for the Animal Shelter and stated there have been many calls frequently about the Animal Shelter. She would like to keep the \$200,000 for the Animal Shelter renovation and the \$1.4 million to match PCC funding ( so they won't have increased costs), which would be covered by the tax rate.

Commissioner Royal asked about what the County was doing to get all the Social Services staff under the same roof. Mr. Elliott said they are looking at renovating the existing Mental Health building and then building a new building following. He said the County gets a 50% participation from federal government for the facility. The debt service would be half of what is budgeted because one-half of expenses would be reimbursed. Mr. Dickerson said they could locate 135 employees from Social Services into Mental Health.

Mr. Elliott asked the Board for direction on the capital projects.

Commissioner Coulson said a lot of this hinges on tax rate. He said the Board needs to come to a consensus on the tax rate first and work from there.

Commissioner Ward said these figures are prepared on the top dollar being spent on facilities. She said if they lower the tax rate they will have to raise it again the next year.

**Motion:**

**Leave tax rate at 70 cents with \$200,000 for Animal Shelter and PCC \$1.4 million in budget. (Motion was later withdrawn.)**

**Motion made by Commissioner Beth Ward.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner John Minges.**

**Discussion:**

**Commissioner Bowen said that he did not think that the Board needed to adopt a tax rate before holding the public hearing.**

**Substitute Motion:**

**Motion for Manager to bring back a budget showing 70 cents, 68 cents and 65 cents tax rate.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Bowen.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Owens.**

**Discussion:**

**Commissioner Minges asked why Commissioner Bowen choose those figures. He then asked for a legal clarification. Mr. Elliott said the tax rate cannot be set or the budget be adopted prior to the public hearing. He said the motion could be revised.**

**Commissioner Ward said she would not mind withdrawing her motion but she does not want a budget to come back with these tax rates as motioned. She said what the Board has in front of them has been clearly presented. She said without some of these capital items the tax rate could be reduced but these renovations would not be done and would have to be readdressed next year. She withdrew her motion.**

**Chairman James said the motion was still on the floor for the Manager to bring back budgets for 70 cents, 68 cents and 65 cents. Commissioner Royal asked for clarification on the proposal by the Manager. Commissioner Garris said he does not want to stall or delay with this motion. He said they have been leading up to a budget with a 70 cents or 68 cents tax rate or the services will have to be cut. This will be a very difficult decision for this Board. Commissioner Bowen said it would not be very difficult to do these proposals. Mr. Elliott said if he looks to capital for the cuts, it would not be difficult to do the 68 cents but with a 65 cents he would have to look at cutting services. Commissioner Garris spoke again about the tax increase. He said the Board could cut the rate but delaying items is what has caused the problems they are addressing today. He said money was pulled from reserved funds to address items.**

Commissioner Owens asked when the Board would be discussing the budget again. Mr. Elliott stated that all of this week was scheduled as backup dates. Commissioner Owens said to bring budgets excluding the \$340,000, \$265,000 and \$200,000. Mr. Elliott said these funds would not effect the tax rate. Commissioner Owens withdrew his second to Commissioner Bowen's motion. Commissioner Hammond said that since 1999, the department heads have been asked to cut their budgets. He said now the Board is faced with all these needs and the growth that has not been addressed. He said there is a limit to what government services can do and when jobs are reduced and other factors, then this Board cannot add to these problems. He said he did not want to come to another meeting unless this Board is going to address this budget.

**Motion:**

Motion to meet again on Tuesday, June 1 at 8:30 for an additional workshop to continue budget discussion.

Motion made by Commissioner John Minges.

Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Mark Owens, Jr.

**Discussion:**

Commissioner Hammond said he needed to be excused at this time. The Board discussed the possibility of delaying the public hearing from June 8th. Mr. Elliott said the public hearing could be delayed if the Board has not come to some form of a consensus on some of these budget items. Commissioner Minges suggested the Board look at moving Social Services staff into the Mental Health building and these costs be examined in more detail. He also asked about the impact on the County if the County decides not to house federal prisoners.

**Vote Record:**

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

**Total Yes Votes: 8**

**Total No Votes: 1**

**Motion Passed.**

Chairman James said the big issue is whether the tax rate is going to be 68 or 70 cents. Commissioner Royal asked if the problem is because revaluation is going to come in with an increase.

*Future Revaluation Schedule*

**Meeting Notes**

Mr. Elliott said that the 30% across the board average increase in revaluation of County property may be reflective of the fact that the County only does revaluation every eight years. This is on the agenda to recommend the revaluation cycle be amended to be every four years so the impact will not be so drastic on the property owners. This would be effective January 1, 2008.

**Motion:**

Change revaluation from eight years to four years with next revaluation effective January 1, 2008.

Motion made by Commissioner Beth Ward.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Randy Royal.

**Substitute Motion:**

Motion to table this item for more information on this before a vote is taken.

Motion made by Commissioner Glenn Bowen.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Tom Coulson.

Commissioner Royal asked if it doesn't make sense to do this every four years so the County does not get in the situation it is in now because of funds. Commissioner Garris said the discussion over the last few weeks shows him that this is needed. He said six of the eight surrounding counties are on a four year cycle. Commissioner Minges agreed. Commissioner Owens stated he opposed this proposal and said its a component of the State practice. He said other matters should be taken into consideration. The tax rate is what the problem is because that is where the control is on the funds. People need some stability in purchasing property. Commissioner Bowen said it's a backdoor way to get more money out of the people, could shorten it to six years. He said it costs a lot of money to do a revaluation. Commissioner Coulson said the Legislature banks on the counties raising taxes. He said the Legislators that he has spoken with say that Pitt County's tax rate is only half of what they authorize. He said he would consider the four year revaluation but he wants some numbers brought before the Board showing the advantage. He said the citizens will pay more over the number of years because they pay incrementally. He said they need to look at what the four years actually would do for the County. Commissioner Ward supports a four year revaluation cycle as a citizen and a commissioner. Commissioner James said things can change a lot in four years. He said in some communities, something could happen that would make the bottom drop out in and it would change their property values. Commissioner Garris said it has been said a revaluation is a backdoor increase but is really a front door tax increase. Commissioner Owens said it lets the General Assembly have the authority to set the revaluation which is an operation of the law.

**Substitute Motion:**

Commissioner Bowen said he was changing his substitute motion to wait until the whole Board is present. Commissioner Coulson said he seconded the first proposed substitute motion but could not second the second motion because Commissioner Hammond walked out on this meeting.

Chairman James called for the vote on the original substitute motion.

**Vote Record:**

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

**Total Yes Votes: 3**

**Total No Votes: 6**

**Commissioner Hammond was absent so his vote is counted with the majority.  
(Reference: Rules of Procedure for Pitt County Board of Commissioners, Section XIII.)  
Motion Failed.**

**Vote on the Original Motion to change the revaluation schedule from eight years to four years effective January 1, 2008.**

**Vote Record:**

**Vote Record:**

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

**Total Yes Votes: 6**

**Total No Votes: 3**

**Commissioner Hammond was absent so his vote is counted with the majority.  
(Reference: Rules of Procedure for Pitt County Board of Commissioners, Section XIII,  
amended 12/01/03.)  
Motion Passed.**

**Items for Decision**

*Nonprofit Agencies*

**Meeting Notes**

Mr. Elliott said the nonprofits fund still need to be considered and asked the Board if they supported the proposal from the staff or wished to address the nonprofit agency funding. Commissioner Owens said in a year when the Board is trying to hold the budget, there were three things added, REAL Crisis, Community Shelter and Solid Ground for Greenville Communities. They removed Little Willie Center and Farmville Child Development Center that have been funded for years and reduced the Farmville Community Arts Council which has been funded for years. He said they put back in the Greenville Museum of Arts and they have labeled the Farmville Arts as a start up and its been funded for years. He said the Community Schools and Recreation is funded with \$25,000. Mr. Elliott said this is proposed to be a grant with an application process for recreation needs. He said Ms. Alice Keene would over see the allocation of these funds with a grant process. Ms. Bryan stated that this doubles what Ms. Keene has to grant out to the community for recreation.

Commissioner Ward said originally she was going to recommend funding all these recreation programs but they can write an application for these grant funds. She said the Ayden Recreation Department can write a grant application for the funds from this Advisory Council. She said that if they do in-kind matching, they would have to put funds up to access these funds.

Commissioner Owens said he wanted to add \$2,000 for the Fountain Library but does not agree with the \$25,000 for recreation. He said the Med School had used the library and they are now open and re-opened and need the funds.

**Motion:**

**Motion to put \$10,000 for Farmville Child Development Center labeled as a sustaining program, add \$1,750 for Little Willie Center labeled as a sustaining program, \$7,500 for Farmville Community Arts Center labeled as sustaining and \$2,000 for Fountain Library. Motion made by Mark Owens, Jr. No second was received for this motion.**

**Chairman James spoke about the \$25,000 and two schools at Belvoir. He said they would apply through Community Schools and they would have to put up a matching fund. Commissioner Owens said these funds should not be centralized but kept in the community. Commissioner Garris said last year each group came before this Board for the funding. Now they have to go through this Advisory Council. Commissioner Bowen said he had never heard of the Little League programs getting any of these funds. Chairman James said if they looked back far enough they would find funds that went to Little Leagues. Commissioner Bowen said that the Jackie Robinson League gets no funds from Community schools. Mr. Elliott said Ms. Keene said she would bring recommendations back to this Board for final approval. Commissioner Minges said if Ms. Keene would look at the last year's funding as a base line, it would be helpful. Ms. Bryan said spoke about the purpose of the grant process and how the in-kind match would help these programs get more funds. Chairman James spoke about Stokes need for funds. Commissioner Garris said this program sounds like a good plan to him. The Board discussed the baseball fields and how recreation shares the fields. Commissioner Bowen said Community Schools run basketball and soccer. Commissioner Coulson said he was glad to see this system that is broken down over a number of years. He said these funds should be looked at as seed money to help them get started up. He does not think funding ongoing programs is a good use of these funds.**

**Commissioner Ward asked about the Child Development Center. Ms. Bryan said they discussed the fact that they receive a lot of money from Mental Health. The year that they received funding was a year they had a funding crisis. Commissioner Ward asked if the County could be saving money by assuring that they continue their services. Ms. Bryan said they are using these funds for operations which may set a precedent for other programs to request these funds. They become long term maintenance program.**

**Commissioner Royal said he understood part of this program is learning about the programs by the application and on-site visits. He said there was discussion about programs that should not be duplicated but the Little Willie Program is a program for latchkey children but this program keeps the children until the parent finally shows up. He said the Little Willie Center's mission is a little different from other organizations.**

**Commissioner Ward asked about the Grifton Civic Center. Ms. Bryan stated they do meals on wheels and arts programs for the elderly. The Board discussed the Fountain Library.**

**Motion:**

**Motion to approve Manager's recommendation for nonprofit agencies, put back \$2,000 for Fountain Library and \$1,750 for Little Willie Center. This total includes Manager's recommendation to fund \$86,440 + 2000 + 1750.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Beth Ward.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner Randy Royal.**

**Commissioner Bowen said Little Willie Center is nonprofit but others seem to be part of government. He would like to talk to the director. Commissioner Royal disagreed. Commissioner Coulson said he would have to vote against this motion. Commissioner Garris asked why Fountain when they did not request funding. They are volunteers and**

their program was taken over last year. Little Willie will not need to come before the Board.

**Substitute Motion:**

**Motion to Approve 2003-04 appropriation for 2004-05 with putting back in \$2,000 for Fountain Library.**

**Motion made by Commissioner John Minges.**

**Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Mark Owens, Jr.**

Commissioner Minges said this would hold the budget at the 2003-04 level at around \$64,500. This would be without the recreation funds. Chairman James asked to add the Belvoir School and the Southwest Schools to the nonprofit funding at \$2,000 each to the motion. Commissioner Minges said he would agree to that and Vice Chairman Owens agreed to second this motion.

Commissioner Bowen said he places like Belvoir would not be eligible for funding.

Commissioner Ward said if they vote for this motion they are taking a step back in their process. She looked at the \$25,000 for the towns to improve their recreation facilities which may be at the schools. Commissioner Bowen said he agrees with Commissioner Ward and that the \$25,000 helps every child in Pitt County. Commissioner Bowen clarified the arts and recreation for Ayden that was budgeted. He said he wanted to put the \$5,000 under Ayden Arts Council and \$2000 separately for recreation.

Commissioner Minges withdrew his motion based on a misunderstanding on some of the totals.

The Board went back to Commissioner Ward's motion. Commissioner Ward said the committee's recommendation was for a total of \$86,440 and that was why she was adding Fountain Library, Little Willie Center and Ayden Arts Council. Chairman James asked to add the two schools.

**Motion:**

**Motion to approve Manager's recommendation for nonprofit agencies, put back \$2,000 for Fountain Library and \$1,750 for Little Willie Center and \$5,000 for Ayden Arts Council.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Beth Ward.**

**Motion seconded by Commissioner John Minges.**

**Discussion:**

Commissioner Garris noted that the \$5,000 for Ayden Arts Council was not new money but just spelled out for Ayden Arts Council. Ms. Bryan asked if the \$25,000 for recreation was still in the budget. Commissioner Ward stated that the \$25,000 was still in the proposed budget for Alice Keene's program to take applications for grant funds.

Commissioner Royal noted that the Little Willie Center was the only group requested to appear. Chairman James stated they would not have to appear before the Board. Commissioner Ward said this proposal would leave the allocation less than the \$100,000. Commissioner Bowen suggested that Fountain Library should have an application on file. Commissioner Bowen said he would instruct Ayden to separate their requests in the future.

**Vote Record:**

John Minges	Yes
Jimmy Garris	Yes
Mark Owens, Jr.	No

<b>Beth Ward</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Glenn Bowen</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tom Coulson</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>David Hammond</b>	<b>Yes (not present)</b>
<b>Eugene James</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Randy Royal</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Total Yes Votes: 7**

**Total No Votes: 2**

**Motion Passed.**

*Animal and Mosquito Control*

### **Meeting Notes**

Commissioner Minges said he has had calls questioning if the Nuisance Ordinance would be included with the approval of the Animal Shelter expansion. He said this would be two separate issues. He said he had heard of the possibility of some State funding for animal control issues. He asked about giving some relief to citizens who are complaining about animals and he expressed some concern about the number of rabies control officers. He asked how many violations have there been and looking for some response. Commissioner Bowen said he thinks there are enough laws on animals. Commissioner Bowen said the Animal Shelter staff can get the Animal Shelter Manager to declare a dog viscous and they can restrain it. Commissioner Coulson said the Shelter Manager cannot declare a dog viscous but the Animal Control Advisory Board must meet to address this matter. Commissioner Coulson also said the magistrates are not upholding the laws on animal control so they have contacted the Clerk of Court to ask her to discuss this with the Magistrates.

Commissioner Coulson asked if Pitt County had a nuisance law do these laws effect the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) areas. Mr. Dickerson said the ETJ is only for planning issues. Other laws are County ruled for ETJ. Commissioner Bowen said Dr. Morrow can declare a dog a viscous dog and now Michele Whaley, Animal Shelter Manager, can declare the dog potentially dangerous and then the Animal Control Advisory Board has to decide it is a dangerous dog. They are bound by the General Statute. Commissioner Coulson said that this process was done but the Magistrate would not address it until the Animal Control Advisory Board met on this issue.

Commissioner Minges suggested they have comments and then come back and discuss at next meeting on June 1, at 8:30 a.m.

### **Commissioner Comments**

There were no comments.

### **Adjourn**

Chairman James announced that the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC  
Clerk to the Board