

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 18, 2005 MINUTES

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Wednesday, May 18, 2005, at 8:30 AM in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

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

Staff present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney
Susan Banks, Clerk to the Board
Melonie Bryan, Deputy County Manager/Financial Services
John Bulow, Deputy County Manager/Human Services
Phil Dickerson, Deputy County Manager/Public Services

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Staff Recommendation

Motion to approve the agenda.

Chairman Owens welcomed everyone and stated that this meeting was a continuation of the May 17th budget workshop.

Motion:

Motion to approve the agenda.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Jimmy Garris.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Melvin McLawhorn.

Commissioner Owens said that Ms. Jessica Davenport has been working for the county some time. She has found a new challenge and the commissioners want to thank you for her work and let her know that they appreciate all that she has done. She thanked the board and said it had been a pleasuring working for them.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Items for Report

Manager's Overview

Meeting Notes

Mr. Elliott informed the board that what was presented to the board yesterday on EMS had not been presented to the EMS Advisory Commission. Ms. Bryan had provided a list of what was discussed yesterday as follows:

Budgetary Considerations

	Impact	Board's Response
Return Health Co-Insurance to 100% vs. 90%	\$400,000	Yes
ECVC - Fully Fund Two Forklifts	28,000	Yes
EMS Tax Reduction (1 cent)	443,000	Yes
EMS - Eliminate Realignment (savings)	132,000	Yes
Emergency Management - Admin Asst position	40,700	No
DSS - 3 additional positions	52,000	Add 1
Remove Planning Board Fee Increase	-2,160	Yes
Remove Competitive Nonprofits	-27,380	No

Sheriff/Detention Center - Sheriff Mac Manning

Meeting Notes

Sheriff Manning said that they do a lot of things that the police departments do not do. They service the entire county as well as provide transport for the detention center and mental health commitments and court security. He said if the city grows and the county stays the same, their responsibilities still increase.

Sheriff Manning said there is a perception that crime is getting worse but here in Pitt County there are some good things happening. Assaults have been on a slight trend upward but there is a decrease of 81% in property crimes. In 1999, burglaries jumped up in 2003. The Sheriff then pulled three deputies to do additional follow up on these types of crime and it decreased in 2004. It was lower than it had been in 10 years.

He said 25% is good for solving property crimes. Deputies are serving papers and are in the low 90% for serving civil papers. Involuntary commitments increased and the time spent transporting clients equals more than one deputy's service time. Sheriff praised his administrative personnel. They are exempt employees and do an excellent job. There is a disparity in their pay plan. They have employees who earn more money than some of the commanding officers. This disparity needs to be addressed. Several years ago the Greenville Police Chief worked on reforming the Countywide Drug Task Force. This task force is currently understaffed. They need to address current crime problems. They are not addressing internet crime, counterfeit checks, credit cards, drivers license, etc. Child pornography, child sexual solicitations have increase but they do not have the staff to address these problems. The jail has been overcrowded and they need additional staff.

He said every deputy covers 65 square miles of the county. It is clear that this is not adequate. It affects response time. Their goal is 15 minutes average for response time. A deputy must visit crime scene if a call is received. Insurance companies rely on their reports.

High visibility of officers in the community is one of the Sheriff's goals.

Investigators are going to court and trying to do follow up on other cases. Inadequate staffing can be the same as dialing 911 and getting a busy signal. Sheriff Manning said a citizen complained to him recently who had been mad for two years over a matter of slow response time. They could not respond to his call when they were needed.

Jail staffing

Sheriff Manning said they need 120 detention officers. The Consultant says they need 32 new Detention Officers. They are requesting 14 officers in their budget. They have records clerks that are functioning as administrative services. The training budget has been cut back so far that it is pitiful. They have three deputies going to training on How to Prevent Gangs in Your Community next month which will cost \$4000. However, deputies are not being trained due to the cut in travel budgets.

Sheriff said that the crime lab can now process and identify marijuana. Sometimes they wait a long time for lab reports to come back from the state. He has a vision to process DNA chemical processing in this lab. He said he is committing every dime to buy new equipment. At least \$61 million is the value of the economic effect of crime in Pitt County. He said countywide \$28 million is spent on law enforcement services including the municipalities.

Sheriff Manning said they requested over \$19 million budget request with 21.5% increase over last year. They do generate some revenue. The cost to the taxpayer is over \$16 million. They have a proven track record. Additional resources are justified.

Commissioner Minges suggested that the board needs a report on the commitment transports. He asked if a non-deputized person could transport these commitments. Sheriff Manning said this is not required to be done by the Sheriff's department. He said they are staffed 24 hours a day which is why they have received the responsibility. They try to send civil workers but it does not always work out.

Commissioner Minges discussed some of the personnel leaving and also the fingerprinting machine. Commissioner Minges asked if other counties had DNA labs. Sheriff said there are other counties with DNA labs.

Commissioner Ward asked if there was a way to address the pay disparity in the Sheriff's Department. She noted that the Sheriff has been working on gang prevention for a long time and that drug trafficking accompanies gang problems. She offered her support.

Commissioner Bowen asked about the Crimestoppers program. Sheriff said Crimestoppers has a great impact on drug money. Commissioner Bowen said he thought there was no overtime pay in the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Elliott said that there are deputies who do contract work. Mr. Elliott said it is less expensive to pay the deputies overtime than hire the additional staff. Commissioner Bowen said he rode with a deputy a couple of months ago.

Commissioner Hammond said he supports some action against disparity in the pay plan. Sheriff said the division chiefs should be compensated because they are managing more money and staff than some department heads. Commissioner Hammond said the security officers at the Hospital make more than the county deputies.

Commissioner McLawhorn spoke about preventive measures. He asked how much they are using the media to get the information out to the public. He spoke about the Sheriff embracing the NAACP, ECU, and other agencies to work towards the gang reduction efforts. Sheriff Manning said they use the county's Pitt TV-13 to get information out and they are also working on a website to get the information out there.

Vice Chairman Garris spoke about the 24% increase requested but stated the Manager is recommending 8.2% increase. The county has to come up with a 10% increase from general funds. He said he was familiar with the pay disparity. Commissioner Coulson also spoke about addressing the pay disparity. He spoke about the prevention of property crimes noting that it would also slow down the drug trafficking. He said they need more officers and the board needs to provide the funds to do the job.

Commissioner James said there are a lot of property crimes that happen but are not reported. He said he appreciates what they do and he thought the Manager had done well in providing for the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Ward asked how many vacancies there are currently under the Sheriff's supervision? Sheriff Manning stated four to five positions at Detention Center, one Deputy position and he also has two to three coming up for retirement next year. Commissioner Bowen asked if they have considered letting the supervisors work on the weekend. Sheriff said the supervisors do not work on weekends except for one staff member working at a gun show due to his expertise.

Chairman Owens asked what criteria the Manager used to determine his budget.

Sheriff said he requested seven public safety officers, one to Sheriff and six to Detention Center.

Public Health - Dr. John Morrow

Meeting Notes

Dr. John Morrow presented a powerpoint with some historical information. He noted that the Health Department was established in 1917. He has budgeted fund balance over the last few years but much of it is restricted. He said they have just received Medicaid cost settlement funds which should make up the difference between expenditures and revenues. They may need to spend \$100,000 of their fund balance this year.

Dr. Morrow said that \$8.3 million was requested which included nursing and clerical positions. They will accept their budget but may have to come back later in the year to ask for those positions that were not recommended by the Manager. He said the county health department has budgeted more of its fund balance than every budgeted in the past. Budgeted over \$800,000 this year but will spend about \$100,000 leaving them with about \$1.8 million in fund balance.

The capital outlay is for vehicles and the bioterrorism laboratory, plus \$225,000 of computer system which needs to be moved off of the mainframe as soon as possible. They have not had a county funded nursing position in 10 years. Show rates have increased and waiting times have improved. They need additional help because more services are being required. They have new responsibilities with bioterrorism. They have been supplementing their budget and decreasing their budget in fund balance each year.

Commissioner Hammond asked what they have received from Homeland Securities. Mr. Elliott explained the county's perspective on their fund balance.

Commissioner Minges asked about individual department's fund balance. Ms. Bryan said most of this fund balance is restricted. The use of fund balance does effect the overall county fund balance. The Environmental Specialist has not been hired yet. They have one person who is coming up for retirement and they need to get someone hired to be trained to do the permitting job. Commissioner Minges asked about downtime in the bioterrorism lab staff. Dr. Morrow said they will be the first lab opened in the state. These employees are state employees. They would test for agents like anthrax. If they have downtime, the state has plans for their time. They have received \$676,000 in state Homeland Security Funds which funds their bioterrorism team. This covers 25 counties in eastern North Carolina. It also covers the lab testing. Commissioner Bowen asked about the problems in staffing in environmental health and about the dental lab.

Pitt Community College - Dr. Dennis Massey, President and Raymond Reddrick, Chairman

Meeting Notes

Dr. Massey said they had the largest graduating class ever. They continue to see increased enrollment growth in fulltime equivalent employees which is from more students taking more classes at one time. They are working with the state on the budget. State representatives are in support of the one cent sales tax proposal.

The budget reflects a modest increase. They are doing renovations to Humber building. They are asking for capital expenditure increases at the same level as last several years. There is a \$1.2 million for state bond funding with local match from bonds approved in 1999. It yielded \$6.2 million. It has been a good year and their initial indication is that they are continuing to grow. They continue to diversify and expand the biotech program. The college is responding to growing needs of community. They are doing outreach for high schools. Commissioner Bowen asked if this budget includes salary increases. Dr. Massey said the salary changes are based on increases anticipated from the state level. He said the 1.84% increase does not represent the whole college.

Vice Chairman Garris noted and praised Dr. Massey for his mention of the need for the one cent sales tax for education at the college graduation.

There was a ten minute break.

Council on Aging - Dr. Charles Byrd

Meeting Notes

Dr. Byrd stated that they are requesting three positions. The ratio is 31 people to each staff person or social worker. They believe they need additional staff for the five satellite centers and to deal with the changes in the new Medicare program. They are asking for help with salary increases for 17 staff members. They do not have the funds from other funding sources. They want to provide a 2% cost of living increase for 17 staff members. He said they have asked for a one time request of \$71,550 for the capital outlay for the nutrition program and volunteer appreciation expenses. He thanked the board for their help with the new campus. They hope to break ground on January 1.

Dr. Byrd stated that they have raised \$1.3 million in private fund raising for the new center. They are asking the county essential funds to meet their responsibilities to the citizens. They have a waiting list for transportation, senior insurance program help and other services. He suggested the Council on Aging become a Department of Aging within the County. He asked for a minimum of one position. He said they need one van for the commissary. They want to provide their own transportation to the senior center.

Commissioner Bowen spoke about a situation where he had been approached by a citizen. Dr. Byrd said there are some onetime cases such as the one Commissioner Bowen spoke. They have to review people and assess their needs before providing services. The senior center is for all people.

Mr. Elliott said Dr. Byrd had earlier asked what the voting ballot language would look like in November. He asked if the board wishes for the Manager's staff to pursue the language for the ballot.

Mr. Elliott said if this was going on the November ballot they need to get moving on the language. In the minutes, the record still says that the board is going to hold a bond referendum on the schools. This needs to be delayed or tabled until the board gets approval from the General Assembly on the one percent sales tax because the county cannot afford to do a separate referendum for the Council on Aging. Vice Chairman Garris said the few items that are on the ballot, the better it will be for the possible approval of the sales tax.

Mr. Elliott suggested the bond be postponed until May 2006 so it will not be an extra expense.

Commissioner Bowen said he understood that the Council on Aging may want to wait until May of 2006 anyway. Dr. Byrd said the board has discussed that but they decided to go for the approval of the bond at the November 8, 2005 election. It would be helpful to have the answer for the voters. Commissioner Bowen said this board could put it off until May for a countywide election and it would not cost the county more money. Dr. Byrd said that they want to be on the bond issue as soon as possible so they can break ground on January 1, 2006. He said 23 board members and staff are working towards that goal. They are concerned that they could be the only issue on the ballot. They prefer to be on the ballot with the one cent sales tax.

Commissioner James said the one percent sales tax is the most important and it does not need to be muddled up with any other issue. The question is about whether the citizens will support an increase in ad valorem taxes for the Council on Aging. He said these two issues need to be separate.

Motion:

Motion to table the November referendum (school bond) until the sales tax goes through and to postpone the referendum on the senior center because he hopes we'll have the sales tax referendum and there should only be one item on this referendum.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Jimmy Garris.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.

Commissioner Coulson questioned how quickly the Legislature will act and if there will be adequate time to build a case with the public. The motion is premature in his opinion. Commissioner Ward said if they could a determination on the sales tax by July, they could consider a special election in the fall. It takes a long time to develop a bond referendum. The sales tax is clear and this is totally different. She said if there is a unanimous vote in support of the Council on Aging, that it will mean an

increase in the taxes. It is not the same as the sales tax. She said she was in favor of the one percent sales tax for capital for education. Commissioner Hammond asked if the state turns the sales tax down, what can the board do? Commissioner Bowen questioned if this vote needed to be passed by a 2/3rds vote. Ms. Burgdorff stated that this motion did not require a 2/3rds vote for approval.

Vote Record:

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

Total Yes Votes: 6

Total No Votes: 3

Motion Passed.

Capital Improvement Plan - Scott Elliott

Meeting Notes

Mr. Elliott provided the board with the following chart.

PITT COUNTY

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Estimates for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 through Fiscal Year 2014-15

PROJECTS	Funding Source	FY 04-05	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR 5	YRS 6-10
		Revised Budget	FY 05-06 Proposed Budget	FY 06-07 Planning Year	FY 07-08 Planning Year	FY 08-09 Planning Year	FY 09-10 Planning Year	Future Years' Projection
APPROVED / RECURRING								
Pitt County Schools - Current Annual Projects	C	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	3,750,000
PCC - Current Annual Projects	C	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	375,000
Economic Development Projects @	C,O	703,438	658,438	625,592	613,438	313,438	313,438	TBD
Pitt County Schools - Roofing	C	0	100,000	0	0	0	0	0
Pitt County Schools	C/COP/O	877,253	0	0	0	0	0	0
B&G - Elevator Upgrades	C	0	180,000	0	0	0	0	0
County Facilities - Energy Savings	S	0	2,600,000	0	0	0	0	0
Communications Equipment - Emerg Svcs/Sheriff	G	1,159,000	0	3,000,000	0	0	0	0
PCC - Humber Bldg Renovation	C	1,400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Register of Deeds - Imaging System	O	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Animal Shelter Expansion	C	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
PCC-Phase 3 Projects-Local Match+++	TBD	1,212,390	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tax Assessor - Mass Appraisal Software/Digital Photo	C	0	350,000	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal		6,577,081	4,363,438	4,450,592	1,438,438	1,138,438	1,138,438	4,125,000
UNMET NEEDS								
<i>Additional/Alternative Revenues Required</i>								

Facilities									
Social Services Facility ++ (1)	COP	0	0	11,300,000	0	0	0	0	0
Sheriff - Detention Center Bed Expansion ++ (1)	TBD	0	0	35,900,000	0	0	0	0	0
Sheriff - Storage & Garage at Detention Center ++	COP	0	0	150,000	0	0	0	0	0
Sheriff - Administration Bldg at Detention Center++	COP	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,100,000	0
Building & Grounds - County Storage Building ++	COP	0	0	300,000	0	300,000	0	0	0
Comm Schls & Rec - Intergenerational Center & Park	G/O/TBD	0	0	1,300,408	0	0	0	3,494,275	0
Council on Aging Senior Center	G/O/TBD	0	0	1,500,000	0	0	0	1,100,000	0
Education									
Pitt County Schools ++ (2004 update)	TBD	0	0	85,572,884	0	0	0	108,300,000	0
PCC-Phase 4 Projects-Long Range Plan	TBD	0	0	0	0	0	0	TBD	0
Public Safety									
Communications Equipment - Emerg Svcs/Sheriff	TBD*	0	0	14,500,000	0	0	0	0	0
Other Projects									
Industrial Development - Technology Park	TBD	0	0	350,000	5,150,000	0	0	0	0
Elections - Voting Machines	TBD	0	0	1,218,968	0	0	0	0	0
ANNUAL TOTALS		6,577,081	4,363,438	156,542,852	6,588,438	1,438,438	1,138,438	118,119,275	

(1) Amount reflects maximum anticipated cost from projected range.

@ Woodridge Project has offsetting acreage fee revenues.

+Funded through combination of COPs, Co. Fund Bal, BOE Fund Bal, St Bonds and Child Nutrition Funds.

++ Could all be included in same bond package to save on issuance costs.

+++ Value of Firing Range reduced the cash requirement by approximately \$250K.

* Funding source(s) to be determined pending legislative changes to E911 Surcharge Fees.

C = Current Funding COP = Certificates of Participation G = Grant S = Savings Generated
GO = General Obligation Bonds SB = State Bond Funds O = Other Funding Source TBD = To Be Determined

Mr. Elliott stated there is a capital improvement plan for ten years. There are no new projects. There are projects for FY 2005-06 totaling \$4,363,438 are in this budget. The biggest area are the unmet needs. The Social Services building has been postponed because they are now utilizing the Mental Health facility for a portion of the Social Services staff. There is \$35,990,000 for the jail facility. Staff will bring the programming study on the Jail Facility to the board in June. He included the Pitt County Schools capital needs for \$85,572,884 which is the first remaining half of the needs identified by the Board of Education. For future years, included for capital needs for schools is \$108,300,000 in Years 6-10. Mr. Elliott said this is the first reason why the board is pursuing the one percent sales tax and the other reason is the \$70 million needed for Pitt Community College's capital needs program. He reviewed each of the other areas of capital needs also noting that the \$70 million for Pitt Community College should be added where it states to be determined. They have identified \$70 million in capital needs. Mr. Elliott said other than education there is not much change in the capital needs program.

Mr. Elliott stated that Buildings and Grounds is working to upgrade two elevators in the county office building. They will take money from fund balance for the elevators. They have allocated \$100,000 for the Schools roofing projects. Mr. Elliott said that if the 1 percent sales tax goes through, then the remaining roof projects will be covered. However, he stated that if the sales tax did not go through, the Schools would come back to the county for the roofing funds or go to their own fund balance. He said they used to go to ADM funds for these expenses. Commissioner James said they had set aside funds years ago for roofing needs. Mr. Elliott said they county appropriates \$750,000 annually for Categories I, II and III but roofing repairs are not included in those categories. He said they have come asking for \$500,000 this year for these needs. He added that the social services building funds in Year 2 need to be moved way out into future years because it is not an immediate need.

Mr. Elliott said there are a number of outstanding issues to be decided by the board and provide the board with information they had requested. COLA information about other counties was presented to the board. 1.1%, 1.6% and 1.9% were given for the last three years for COLA. He said most jurisdictions are giving 3% COLA. Mr. Elliott provided an increase in hospitalization premiums for Employee/Child by \$10 per month and \$16 per month for Family coverage. The new rates will be \$220 for Employee/Child and \$392 for Family coverage. He said Pitt County was in line with its comparable counties. He said staff proposed to take the hospitalization coverage from 100% to 90% which would save around \$370,000 for the next year. Chairman Owens asked if there were counties east of Raleigh in the comparison. Mr. Elliott said they used population and comparable counties to Pitt County.

Commissioner James said most of the other counties provide 80% hospitalization coverage. He said if the county could reduce the hospitalization, they could save \$800,000 which would solve a lot of the problems. He said the state provides 80/20 coverage. Mr. Bulow said the insurance is self-funded and is structured as a partnership between the employees and the county. He said they have kept the hospitalization constant for three years and hates to erode the hospitalization plan. He said the county's hospitalization is one of the best benefits the county has to offer the employees. He said to go down to 80% coverage would hurt the credibility of the program. Commissioner Ward said that the reduction would go to the fund but the county could not use it to balance the budget.

Commissioner Coulson said he supported the 1.5% in COLA and keep the hospitalization at 100%. The premium was changed 2 years ago. He said he will not vote for this budget if the coverage for hospitalization does not remain 100%. Mr. Bulow said the maximum effect of a 90% plan is a \$2000 cap per individual and \$6000 cap per family. Commissioner Coulson said this is the one thing that help protect the employees and the majority of the county employees do not have huge incomes. He said this is one benefit the employees feel helps them the most. Employees are getting squeezed and they are being asked to work for less. It would take four years for them to break even if they had a hospital visit.

Commissioner Bowen said for several years he has proposed giving a \$500 Christmas bonus out to employees on the first of December. He said he supports a \$500 bonus instead of a cost of living raise and supports leaving insurance as currently provided.

Motion:

Motion to have Manager to look at a way to give all employees a bonus of \$500, see how it will effect the fund balance and keep hospitalization at 100%. Motion made by Commissioner Glenn Bowen. This motion died due to lack of a second.

Commissioner Minges spoke about the cost of living and the merit increase system. He asked how many employees get the merit raises. Mr. Elliott said that the county needs to keep up with its internal pay plan. Commissioner Minges said he is in favor of a cost of living increase. Commissioner McLawhorn said he supports the county employees and retaining their benefits. Commissioner James spoke in support of retaining the 100% hospitalization. Commissioner Hammond said he was concerned about the

consideration of cutting hospitalization benefits. Commissioner Garris said these benefits need to be aligned with the people paying for the bill. He supports the COLA but was concerned about the merit coming in addition to the COLA. He also supported the proposal for 90% coverage for hospitalization.

Commissioner Coulson offered a motion to reduce the COLA to 1.5% based on and \$370,000 which is based on \$30,000 per year. No second was received. Commissioner Bowen said to ask the Manager to provide a proposal based on this suggestion versus making this a motion. Commissioner Coulson said he would support that proposal.

Mr. Elliot spoke to the salary levels of the department heads and the higher paid positions. He said they should receive the same percentage COLA as lower line employees based upon three factors 1) education 2) experience, and 3) risk in the job. Commissioner Bowen worried about the people paying the taxes. He said the people are leaving private and going to be employee by the public sector.

Manager's Roundup

Mr. Elliott reviewed his notes for proposed budget.

- Add back in forklifts for ECVC, from solid waste fund balance.
- Leave the \$27,000 in nonprofits competitive grants
- Planning Board increase- remove increase and look at all boards (respond with survey results)
- Social Services - 1 additional position with 50% state funding - \$17,000 to be added back in
- EMS - Administrative Assistant \$40,000 for EMS – did not recommend adding back in

The board discussed the EMS request and decided to leave the position out of the budget at this time.

- 1 cent EMS tax increase which give \$440,000 or Do not raise EMS tax
- Start in-house billing. Do not increase EMS tax but form group to study franchise fee and transportation of non emergency clients, and privatization (Group should return to this board no later than September with a recommendation.) Mr. Elliott asked for more direction on who should make up the committee to study this area.

Mr. Elliott said \$710,000 additional fund balance appropriation will be need to fund the EMS functions if the board does not raise taxes or combine stations.

Commissioner Garris said this will have to come from fund balance but he eventually wants to reduce the payments from fund balance once the recommendation is brought back in September.

Commissioner Ward would mean monthly disbursement of funds. She said that hopefully there will be money generated which will lower this expense.

Commissioner Minges asked how long it would take to take over the non-emergency transport and to send out an RFP for non emergency and emergency transports. He suggested looking at other counties that have privatized their systems. Commissioner Minges suggested a QRV can be put in some locations. He also said there are five non-emergency transportation companies making a profit in Pitt County and this county needs to look into doing this business. Mr. Elliott said they could provide a report in September.

Commissioner James said the rescue trucks should not be sitting still and the county should not be paying people to sleep. Commissioner Bowen said they need someone beside the EMS Advisory Committee to work on this project because that is made up of rescue squad members. Commissioner Hammond said that those companies know where there is a hospital and med school there is business for them. Mr. Elliott recommended appointing a task force. He said staff could do the investigations and a subcommittee of commissioners to look into this matter. He said they would be keeping ten squads open as in traditional models if no changes were made in the budget. Commissioner Minges volunteered to serve as one commissioner on the task force. Mr. Elliott will bring back a recommendation. Chairman Owens said a committee does not need to be appointed today.

Mr. Elliott asked about the fees for solid waste. These are fees for the enterprise fund. Mr. Dickerson said there is over \$1 million in fund balance and this operation should stand on its own. This fund balance should be around 15%. We have alot more exposure. Ms. Bryan said the exposure is the strength of the general fund.

Mr. Elliott said there will need to be \$150,000 to \$177,000 operating for the leased building for Pitt Community College.

Chairman Owens said they have the budget the Manager has presented and have made suggestions. It will be left to the Manager to compile the recommendation and return a budget to the board. Mr. Elliott said he would like to meet again with the board about some of the open questions such as employee benefits. Chairman Owens suggested the board meet next Monday, May 23, 2005.

Commissioner Minges said he wants all the information that has been discussed in these budget sessions.

Chairman Owens called a meeting for Monday, May 23rd at 8:30am.

Adjourn

Chairman Owens adjourned the meeting at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan J. Banks, CMC
Clerk to the Board