

PITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
MAY 16, 2006 MINUTES

The Pitt County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, at 8:30 AM in the Commissioners' Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

Commissioners present:

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

Staff present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager
Susan Banks, Clerk
Trish Staton, Deputy Clerk
JoAnne Burgdorff, Attorney
Melonie Bryan, Deputy Manager/Financial Services
Loretta Lee, Budget Administrator
John K. Bulow, Deputy Manager/Human Services
Michael Taylor, MIS Chief Information Officer
Phil Dickerson, Deputy Manager/Pubic Services
Janis Gallagher, Attorney
George Perry, Director Social Services

Call to Order

Meeting Notes

Chairman Garris called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Roll Call

Invocation and Pledge

Meeting Notes

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

Approval of Agenda

Staff Recommendation

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion:

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion made by Commissioner David Hammond.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Eugene James.

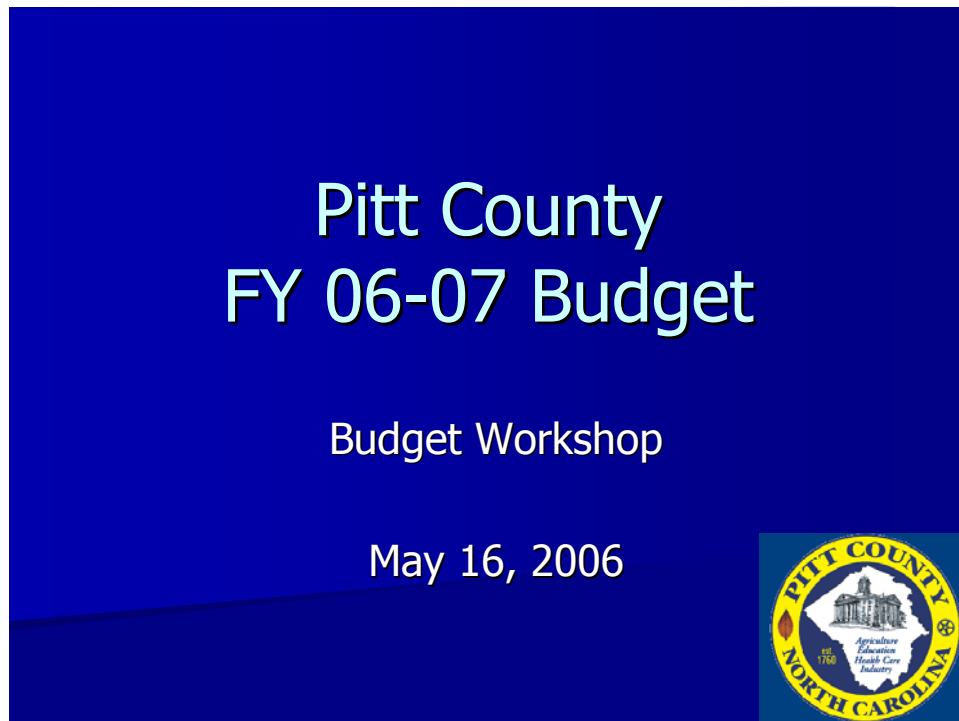
Motion Passed Unanimously.

Items for Decision

Manager's Overview

Meeting Notes

County Manager Scott Elliott gave an overview of the Preliminary FY06-07 budget; he stated that he and the Finance Director, Melonie Bryan and Budget Administrator Loretta Lee worked with county departments to bring this budget to the board today. Mr. Elliott presented the following PowerPoint presentation.



Fiscal Year 06-07 Overview

Preliminary FY 06-07 Budget

Grand Total FY 06-07	\$198,799,239
FY 05-06 Revised	\$204,180,335*
Change	-2.64%

*Charts will reflect revised budget as \$206,877,337 which includes the borrowing for the energy savings project in the amount of \$2,697,002 that should be netted out of the revised budget to reflect more accurate picture for comparison purposes.

Preliminary FY 06-07 Budget General Fund

Original Requests	\$106,791,077
Reductions by Mgr	\$ 5,583,384
Mgr's Preliminary	\$101,207,693
FY 05-06 Revised	\$ 96,592,906*
Change	\$ 4,614,787 <i>or</i> + 4.78%

*(Net of borrowing for the energy savings project in the amount of \$2,697,002)

FY 06-07 Expenditure Drivers

General Fund

■ Education Funding Increases (BOE/PCC)	\$1,795,623
■ General Fund Transfers to DSS & PH	\$1,703,229
■ Vehicle Replacements	\$ 548,000
■ New Positions	\$ 426,425
■ Uncontrollables (fuel/utilities)	<u>\$ 350,338</u>
Total	\$4,823,615

Highlights

- Budget addresses the priorities of the County
- Preliminary budget is balanced with no tax increase
- Balanced budget accomplished through cuts, internal efficiencies and sound fiscal policies
- Hospitalization plan for the County stays with Blue Cross Blue Shield

Revenue Review

FY 06-07 Estimated New Revenues

General Fund

■ Ad valorem taxes	\$2,862,952
■ Sales taxes	\$2,010,987
■ Investment earnings	<u>\$ 600,000</u>
Total New Money	\$5,473,939

Ad Valorem Tax Rate

- Current Rate 70¢
per \$100 valuation
- Proposed Rate 70¢ (no change)

Distribution

- .6850 to General Fund
- .0150 to Industrial Development

Fund Balance

The County is projected to close Fiscal Year 05-06 without using any fund balance to cover regular operating expenditures in its control fund (General Fund 100).

Fund balance at June 30, 2006, is expected to be approximately 19.43%.

Fund Balance

However:

- Social Services (Fund 160) – Medicaid costs
- Mental Health (Fund 190) – operational issues
- Public Health (Fund 150) – \$595,995 fund balance budgeted to cover operating costs in FY 05-06

County may experience an overall reduction in actual fund balance (\$) and fund balance ratio (%).

Fund balance is a calculation based on the combined activities of the six "general" operating funds within our budget.

Fund Balance

Proposed FY 06-07 General Fund control budget does not rely on fund balance to cover recurring expenditures—no spend-down of the budgeted \$3.7 million expected.

Fund balance budgeted in the Public Health Fund (\$170,844) could actually be used to cover costs in FY 06-07.

Proposed Fee Changes

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
■ Planning		
Zoning Compliance Permit	NC	\$25
Rezoning (+ \$20/acre over 2.0)	\$150	\$250
Conditional Use	\$150	\$250
Special Use	\$150	\$250
Variance	\$150	\$250
Road Name Change	NC	\$150

Proposed Fee Changes

	From	To
■ Solid Waste Fund		
Residential/year	\$66	\$68
■ Sheriff		
Criminal History Record	NC	\$5
Driver History Record	NC	\$5

And other miscellaneous charges – copies, etc. and new listings in the Manual of Fees as detailed in the handout.

Expenditure Review

Expenditures by Fund

■ General Fund	\$ 101,207,693
■ Public Health	\$ 8,241,496
■ Social Services	\$ 34,296,019
■ Mental Health	\$ 12,426,926
■ Debt Service	\$ 12,491,619
■ Solid Waste	\$ 7,447,866
■ Health Insurance	\$ 5,637,216
■ Fire & EMS Districts	\$ 4,753,391
■ All Others	<u>\$ 12,297,013</u>
Total	\$198,799,239

Education Funding

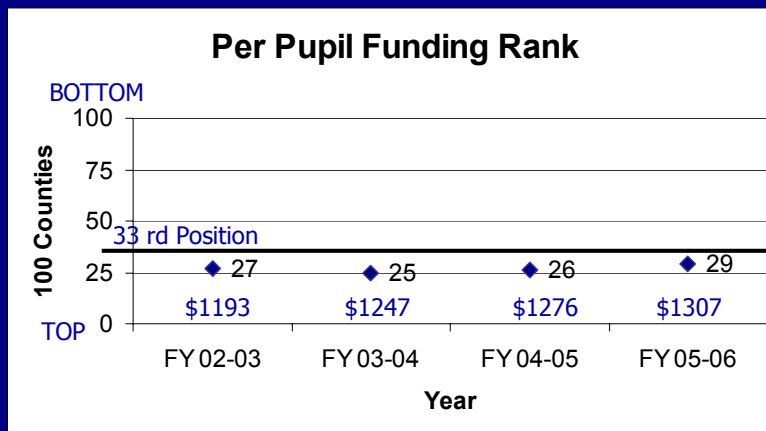
**Pitt County Schools
&
Pitt Community College**

Education Funding Pitt County Schools and Pitt Community College

Education is the #1 priority of the Board of Commissioners.

The FY 06-07 budget places \$1,795,623 in new funding towards this priority. This amount represents 33% of all the new revenue in the General Fund.

Pitt County Schools



Pitt County Schools

■ Current Expense \$30,390,965

Includes funds for 490 new students, opening new school

■ Category I,II,III Capital \$ 750,000

Total Funding \$31,140,965

Increased Funding

■ Current Expense Increase \$ 1,627,623

Pitt Community College

■ Current Expense \$3,528,000

■ Capital Outlay \$ 75,000

Total Funding \$3,603,000

Increased Funding

■ Current Expense Increase \$ 168,000

EMS Fund

EMS Fund

■ FY 05-06 Budget	\$ 3,488,802
■ FY 06-07 Request	\$ 3,642,607
■ FY 06-07 Mgr's Recommended	\$ 3,642,607
■ Revenue Sources:	
– Transport Revenues	\$ 975,000
– Medicaid Settlement	\$ 50,000
– EMS Tax (4-cents)	\$ 1,860,340
– General Fund Appropriation <small>(same as FY 05-06)</small>	\$ 757,267

EMS Fund

- Recommend movement from “enhanced” to “aggressive” collection efforts—increases revenue and reduces General Fund reliance
- Concern that flat budget request could lead to squad shortfalls during FY 06-07
- No capital replacement funding included

Other Considerations

- Capital Projects for Education – BOE & PCC – pending sales tax legislation
- Mental Health – “Regionalization”
- NC General Assembly Medicaid Relief: \$1.3 million (??)

The Board discussed the changes to the County’s Blue Cross Blue Shield hospitalization policy and expressed the needs and concerns of county employees.

Commissioner Mingos said he had concerns about saving money and would like the Board to ask MGT of America to look at county and school system’s spending and have an external view at the spending.

Commissioner Owens thanked the manager for presenting a balanced budget. Chairman Garris said we need closure on MGT matter and we also need to discuss the EMS collections.

Commissioners took a 10 minute break

Social Services

Meeting Notes

Meeting reconvened at 11:28

George Perry introduced his management team of David Carter, Julie Rawls, Margaret Dixon, Brian Avery, Sherry Farmer. Mr. Perry gave the following powerpoint presentation.

**DEPARTMENT
OF
SOCIAL SERVICES**

Budget Presentation

FY 2006-2007

PITT COUNTY DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES

MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION of the Pitt County Department of Social Services is to enable the achievement of self support and self sufficiency. It is our aim to prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable citizens, but if necessary, we intervene to provide protection. We will strive to help those families who are dependent on public assistance benefits to find employment and obtain child support.

OUR COMMITMENT is to each individual or family we serve. We focus on each person or family individually. We will respond in a respectful, confidential, efficient, and compassionate manner. We aim to offer promptly available benefits and timely services.

WE RECOGNIZE the worth and dignity of each person or family we come into contact with, and we recognize the diversity of the different cultures which make up the Pitt County Community.

WHAT WE ADMINISTER

Forty public assistance and service programs, including:



- Child Support
- Food Stamps
- Foster Care
- Adoption Assistance
- Medicaid
- NC Health Choice
- Work First Family Assistance
- Emergency Assistance
- Day Care Assistance
- Protective Services for Children
- Protective Services for Adults
- Employment Services



INCOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

- **Child Support Enforcement** - increased total support collection from \$10,222,369 to \$10,306,894.
- **Work First Cash Assistance** - enabled 125 heads of households to enter gainful employment.
- **Medicaid** - provided health coverage to 21,074 children & adults.
- **N. C. Health Choice** – provided health coverage to 1,891 children.
- **Food Stamps** - average of 7,240 households and 18,125 people receiving Food Stamps per month. The number of households receiving Food Stamps increased by 12.1%.



INCOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

- **Emergency Assistance Programs**
 - **Crisis Intervention Program** - 1,078 indiv. recipients
 - **Emergency Assistance** - 176 indiv. recipients
 - **FEMA Emergency Assistance, CP & L Project Share, GUC Neighbor to Neighbor** - 342 indiv. recipients
 - **Low Income Energy Assistance Program** – 4,836 households consisting of 12,270 individuals – Total of \$233,291.
 - **General Assistance** - 923 indiv. recipients

SERVICES PROGRAMS Accomplishments for 2005



- **Adult Protective Services** - Provided protection for 177 frail, elderly and disabled persons.
- **Child Protective Services** - Provided Protective Services investigations for 1,058 referrals.
- **Foster Care** - 172 children currently in Foster Care as of April, 2006. 204 children served during the 2005 calendar year. Permanence was found for 35 children in 2005.

SERVICES PROGRAMS Accomplishments for 2005



- **Monitor Rest Homes** - Monitored 20 rest homes for compliance.
- **Work First Employment Program** - Maintained 94% retention rate for recipients who remained employed.
- **Guardianship (38) & Adult Protective Payees (47)**
- Helped frail, elderly and disabled adults obtain guardianship & protective payees.
- **Child Care** - Provided subsidized Day Care to an average of 1,716 children per month.

PROJECTED TOTAL BUDGET MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED FY 2006 – 2007



- Total Budget \$227,002,910
- Total County Operations \$34,296,019
- County Appropriation \$15,543,995
- Percentage of County Funds 6.8%
- The County Appropriation is an increase of \$1,149,217 (8.0%) from the budget adopted July 1, 2005.

COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS FY 05/06 TO FY 06/07

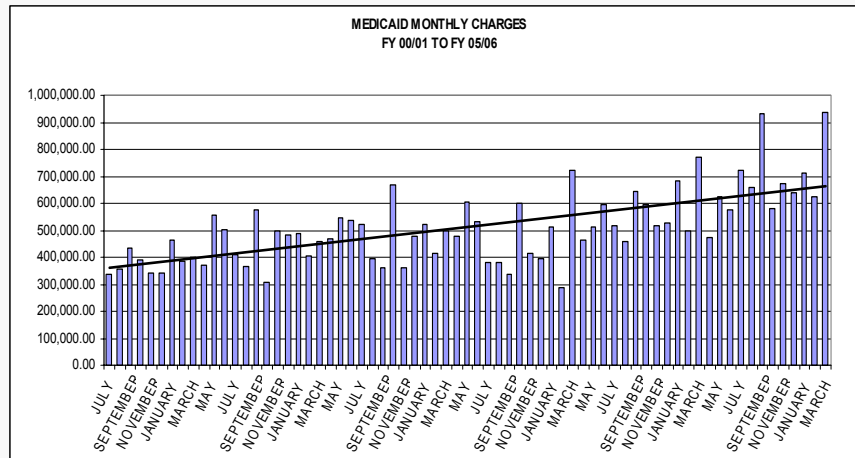


	Total Funds	County Funds
Current Appropriation	\$31,212,444	\$14,394,778
Manager's Recommendation	\$34,296,019	\$15,543,995
Increase	\$3,083,575	\$1,149,217
Percent Change	9.9%	8.0%

MEDICAID PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FY 05/06 and FY 06/07

COUNTY BUDGET	STATE'S ESTIMATE	REQUEST
FY 05/06 \$8,082,819	FY 06/07 \$8,987,907	FY 06/07 \$8,999,249

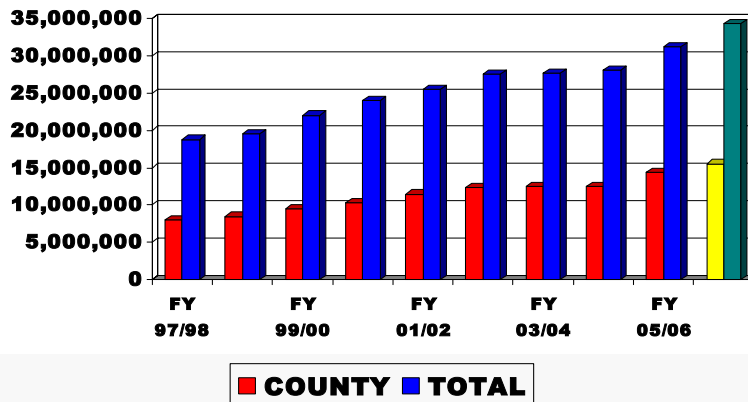


COUNTY BUDGET Significant Changes – Points of Interest



- Medicaid **Net** increase of \$572,680
- Two new Adult Services Social Worker II staff - cost to the County - Total \$72,434
- One new Income Maintenance III staff - cost to County - Total \$32,975
- Growth in Foster Care Exp. – Increased by \$320,000
- Three contracts – Visitation, Mediator, Service of Summons – Total \$70,875

TOTAL BUDGET COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS FY 97/98 TO FY 06/07



Vice-Chairman Ward commended Mr. Perry on the Work First Cash Assistance Program. Mr. Perry said before a client can receive funding they have to sign up at the Employment Security Commission and the Child Support office to start the process. We have Work First Social Workers to help with finding a job. We have gone from 2000 citizens to 130 receiving public assistance. Chairman Garris thanked Mr. Perry for his presentation.

Manager's Round Up

Mr. Elliott reviewed the agenda for May 17, 2006. He made a clarification on the animal control request. He said they have agreed to take a quarter time of the deputy at Solid Waste and to allocate it to the shelter

He asked the Board to consider taking action on the Blue Cross Blue Shield matter and to notify the NCACC that we will not be contracting with them for Cigna coverage.

Motion:

Motion to notify Blue Cross Blue Shield to start a 'direct' relationship

Motion made by Vice-Chairman Ward

Motion seconded by Commissioner James

Motion Passed Unanimously

Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Owens asked the Manager to provide information what are the variants between the sheriff, social services and the schools budgets.

Closed Session

Closed Session per NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel Matter – Scott Elliott

Staff Recommendation

Motion to go into closed session based on G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)

Motion:

Motion to go into closed session based on G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)

Motion made by Commissioner Minges.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hammond

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Staff Recommendation

Motion to return to open session.

Motion:

Motion to return to open session.

Motion made by Commissioner David Hammond.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Melvin McLawhorn.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Motion to appoint Trish Staton to the position of Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners upon the departure of Susan Banks and to give Kimberly Woodard a 4.8% salary increase.

Motion made by Commissioner Hammond.

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Staton

Deputy Clerk to the Board