

Pitt County Board of Commissioners
Legislative Breakfast
April 28, 2008
8:00 AM
Community Schools & Recreation

Commissioners present:

Mark W. Owens, Jr., Chairman
Melvin McLawhorn, Vice Chairman
Beth Ward, Commissioner
Jimmy Garris, Commissioner
David Hammond, Commissioner
Tom Johnson, Commissioner
Kenneth Ross, Commissioner
Tom Coulson, Commissioner

Commissioners absent:

Eugene James

Legislators present:

Edith Warren, House of Representatives
Marian McLawhorn, House of Representatives
Author Williams, House of Representatives
Clark Jenkins, Senator

Staff present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager
Patricia Staton, Clerk
Melonie Bryan, Deputy County Manger/Financial Services
Michael Taylor, Chief Information Officer
JoAnne Burgdorff, County Attorney
Janis Gallagher, Assistant County Attorney

Chairman Owens welcomed everyone. Scott Elliott, presented the 2008 Legislative Goals for Pitt County.

2008 LEGISLATIVE GOALS/PROPOSED BY PITT COUNTY

- 1) **Protest Petition:** Continue to support House Bill 1168 titled “Pitt County Protest Petitions”. In March, 2007 Edith Warren introduced House Bill 1168 on behalf of Pitt County as a local bill to allow adjacent property owners the right to file a formal protest petition in rezoning matter.
- 2) **Police Information Network Reports (PIN):** Introduce a local bill to authorize the Pitt County Sheriff to charge a reasonable fee for each uncertified copy of Police Information Network Reports (PINs) on criminal history and motor vehicle reports provided to defense counsel.
- 3) **Road Construction:** Oppose any efforts to shift the financial burden of road construction and maintenance to Counties.
- 4) **Judicial Facilities Responsibilities:** Oppose the enforcement of the expanded responsibilities for counties under N.C.G.S. 7A-302. In 2007 the General Assembly passed an expansion of N.C.G.S. 7A-302 which requires counties beginning in July, 2008 to provide properly functioning telephones that meet the specifications for Administrative Office of the Court telephones, and the equipment and infrastructure necessary to support those telephones for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention related judicial facilities.

Representative McLawhorn asked if Pitt County needed a bill for the Police Information Network Reports. Mr. Elliott said “yes” and explained the bill would give the Sheriff the authority to charge a fee. Representative Williams spoke about not introducing bills that may be controversial during the short session. Chairman Owens stated he was against the bill. Discussion followed that the bill should be reworded after discussion with the Sheriff’s Association and moved to the long session in 2009.

Protest Petition - Mr. Elliott stated that we were asking them to support House Bill 1168 titled “Pitt County Protest Petitions” as our Planning Board strongly supports this. Representative Marian McLawhorn stated the budget outlook is not good. Ms. McLawhorn stated this will be a very short session due to all of the elections going and the lack of money to meet the requests.

Mr. Elliott stated the Road Construction item is asking to reverse or rescind any efforts to shift the financial burden of road construction and maintenance to Counties. Senator Clark Jenkins stated he sponsored the bill. He spoke about the background of the bill and advised that it was not intended to shift the financial burden to counties, but was to allow counties who wanted the authority to provide the funding in order to get their road projects completed quicker.

Ms. Burgdorff stated that the **Judicial Facilities Responsibilities** is asking for Opposition to the enforcement of the expanded responsibilities for counties under N.C.G.S. 7A-302.

Representative Author Williams asked what the commissioner plan to do about the sewage problem in Grifton, Ayden and Winterville. Mr. Elliott stated the County is aware of the sewage problem but have not received a formal request for assistance from any municipality as of yet.

Chairman Owens stated the meeting had been informative. He thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Staton