

Pitt County Board of Commissioners
Legislative Delegation Meeting
January 6, 2023
8:00 AM

Board Members Present:

Mary Perkins-Williams, Chairwoman
Chris Nunnally, Vice Chairman
Melvin McLawhorn, Commissioner
Beth B. Ward, Commissioner

Board Members Absent:

Tom Coulson, Commissioner
Benji Holloman, Commissioner
Ann Floyd Huggins, Commissioner
Mark C. Smith, Commissioner
Lauren White, Commissioner

Legislators present:

Kandi Smith, House of Representatives (arrived late)
Tim Reeder, House of Representatives

Staff present:

Janis Gallagher, County Manager
Sam Croom, Deputy County Manager/Chief Financial Officer
Michael Taylor, Deputy County Manager/Chief Information Officer
Kimberly W. Hines, Clerk to the Board
Jordan Smith, County Attorney
James Rhodes, Assistant County Manager Planning & Environmental/Planning Director
Florida Hardy, Assistant County Manager People & Community/Human Resources Director
Tim Corley, Assistant County Manager/County Engineer

Community Partners present:

Trent McGee, Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce/President
Kimber Stone, Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce/Director of Member Relations
Veronica Robinson, Winterville Councilwoman
Johnny Moye, Winterville Mayor Pro Tem
Stephanie Hinnant, Hilton
Jeff Nelson, State Employee's Credit Union

Chairwoman Perkins-Williams opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Self-introductions were provided at this time.

Mr. Smith reviewed Pitt County's Adopted Legislative Goals as follows:

- ❖ **General Revenue Protection:** Support efforts to preserve the existing local revenue base of counties and oppose efforts to divert fees or taxes currently allocated to the counties to the State; oppose efforts to erode the tax base by providing exemptions, exclusions or deferments on real or personal property.
- ❖ **Oppose Unfunded Mandates:** Oppose unfunded mandates and shifts of State responsibilities to counties.

- ❖ **Fully Fund State Responsibilities for Public Education:** Adequately and fully fund public school current operating expenses to minimize the burden on counties to fill in the gaps necessary to provide a basic and sound education for all students. Issue bonds for unmet school capital needs, and dedicate lottery revenues for education as originally intended.
- ❖ **Broadband:** Seek funding and other efforts to expand digital infrastructure and broadband capability to the unserved and underserved areas and residents in North Carolina.
- ❖ **Parks and Recreation:** Seek State funding to supplement County Parks and Recreation enhancements.
- ❖ **Water and Sewer Infrastructure:** Address Environmental Health concerns by seeking State funding to continue water and sewer improvements throughout the County, including Candlewick Area Sanitary District, the Stokes community, and other areas of unincorporated Pitt County.
- ❖ **Family Justice Center:** Seek State support for Family Justice Center facilities and pilot programming, and reinstate Family Center funding.
- ❖ **Authorize Maintenance Bonds for Subdivision Streets:** Seek legislation to authorize counties to require developers to post maintenance bonds for publicly dedicated subdivision roads. This will assure that sufficient funds are available to maintain the roads to North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) standards so that the roads may be accepted into the NCDOT state maintenance system.

Representative Reeder thanked the Board of Commissioners for their leadership. He stated Pitt County remains a leader in Eastern North Carolina and he is honored to serve as a member of the Pitt County Legislative Delegation. He stated they will be sworn in on January 11, 2023 at noon and committee assignments will be made following that. He stated he has firsthand experience with upkeep of subdivision streets. He stated his neighborhood is currently experiencing issues with maintenance and upkeep. He stated he also has firsthand experience with broadband, as he used to drive to Starbucks for internet reception. He stated it took nearly five years for his neighborhood to have broadband.

Representative Smith thanked the Board of Commissioners for their leadership and stated she looks forward to continuing the relationship with Pitt County. She stated she is familiar with a lot of the goals from serving on the House of Representatives last year. She stated she will be the only state representative serving Eastern North Carolina once sworn in and she looks forward to the continued partnership.

Per the Chairwoman's request, Mrs. Gallagher reviewed the county's mission and vision. She stated under the Chairwoman's leadership, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners plan to host a regional economic development summit this summer.

Chairwoman Perkins-Williams provided an opportunity for everyone in attendance to comment. She thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly W. Hines, MMC
Clerk to the Board