

**Pitt County Board of Commissioners
Greenville, North Carolina
Wednesday, May 27, 2020 Minutes**

Board of Commissioners met on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 10:00 AM in the Eugene James Auditorium, Pitt County Office Building, 1717 W 5th Street, Greenville, North Carolina.

Board Members Present via Teleconference:

Melvin McLawhorn, Chairman
Tom Coulson, Vice Chairman
Alex Albright, Commissioner
Mike Fitzpatrick, Commissioner
Ann Floyd Huggins, Commissioner
Christopher W. Nunnally, Commissioner
Beth B. Ward, Commissioner
Lauren White, Commissioner
Mary Perkins-Williams, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Scott Elliott, County Manager
Janis Gallagher, County Attorney
Kimberly Hines, Clerk to the Board
Brian Barnett, Deputy County Manager, Chief Financial Officer
Mike Emory, Public Information Officer
Randy Gentry, Emergency Services Director
Dr. John Silvernail, Public Health Director
Tim Corley, County Engineer
Florida Hardy, Human Resources Director

Welcome

Mr. Elliott welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Call to Order

Chairman McLawhorn called the meeting order.

Items for Discussion

CARES Act Spending Plan Proposal - Scott Elliott

Meeting Notes

Mr. Elliott presented the following Power Point presentation.

See Appendix 1

Chairman McLawhorn spoke of testing being critical. He stated he was pleased to see \$638,000 allocated to testing and testing supplies. He asked if testing sites could be offered at the most vulnerable parts of the community. Dr. Silvernail stated a permanent site has been discussed for the Moyewood area and the Greenville Housing Authority. He stated a third revolving site in the Farmville area has been discussed. He stated that site would rotate throughout the Farmville, Fountain, Bethel, Grimesland and Grifton/Ayden areas. He stated if the two sites at the Moyewood area and the Greenville Housing Authority satisfy the need, they could be shifted to other locations within the City of Greenville. He stated the State recommends testing 5 percent of the population per month (~10,000 people). He stated there are currently about 100 people being tested per day. Chairman McLawhorn asked about the homeless population. Dr. Silvernail stated an evening (mobile site) will be available on Tuesday's at Public Health for the homeless community. He stated the site could move, if needed.

Commissioner White asked for the total allocation needed for the county. Mr. Barnett stated if the municipal allocation of \$478,000 was removed, that will give you the needed county allocation. He stated it is approximately \$2.6 million. She reiterated if municipalities received funds, they would sign a contract with the county agreeing that they would be held responsible for reimbursing the county should there monies not be spent appropriately. Mr. Barnett stated the county would basically serve as a clearinghouse to the municipalities. Mr. Elliott stated the proposed total for the CARES Act funding is \$3,190,732. She asked about a per capita formula being used to allocate monies rather than the requested amount so the money is fairly allocated. Mr. Elliott stated county government has the primary responsibility (county wide) for the COVID-19 expenses. He stated if a per capita formula were used, monies would not be available for Pitt County's needs. He stated there is another \$150 million in the state's reserve that is yet to be distributed.

Commissioner Albright thanked Dr. Silvernail and county staff for the information. He stated he did not see any allocations towards masking and social distancing. Mr. Elliott stated masks would be included in the \$100,000 allocation for protective equipment. He spoke of countywide masking and awareness of the importance of masking. Mr. Elliott stated Commissioner Nunnally has requested an agenda item be presented at the regular scheduled meeting on June 1, 2020 in regard to face masking. Commissioner Albright asked about signage to encourage social distancing within the community. Mr. Elliott stated the weekly COVID-19 media sessions ended this week. He stated a scaled down opportunity of media availability will begin this week with Dr. Silvernail answering questions from the media and community members. He stated these will be held on Wednesdays at 2:30pm in the Mark W. Owens, Jr. Auditorium. He stated the county website is being used as a resource as well. Mr. Barnett stated signage does fall within several of the noted proposed allocation categories.

Commissioner Nunnally asked if the municipalities allocations overlap with the counties. Mr. Elliott stated the municipalities used the county's guidelines when making their requests. He stated Greenville did an extensive job by department in detailing their costs. Mr. Barnett stated from a technical standpoint, the \$3.1 million must be spent by December 30, 2020. He stated 25 percent was set aside in contingency for non-foreseen costs (\$798K). He stated when the municipal considerations are taken into effect, the monies are being stretched. He stated once approved by the State, the plan may be modified and

changed upon State approval.

Commissioner Nunnally spoke of a second surge and the expected preparation in regard to testing. Dr. Silvernail stated most of the expense is for the actual test. He stated labor cost is a relatively small percentage. He stated the cost is about \$100 per test (through Lab Core) and \$33 for labor and supplies. He stated the state is currently furnishes supplies for much of the collections. He stated if the county can find a more cost-effective lab vendor, the money will go further. Commissioner Nunnally spoke about non-congregate sheltering allocations. Mr. Elliott stated a committee was formed in the past month to discuss the homeless population. He stated money was received from FEMA to offer shelter to those population that test positive or have other factors that would allow for this housing. He stated as of last week, six individuals fell into this program. He stated the allocated \$48,000 could be reallocated if not needed for non-congregate sheltering.

Commissioner Floyd Huggins spoke about continuing to educate citizens and encouraging them to continue using face masking and social distancing. She stated she would like to see more allocation toward testing and testing supplies. She asked if the state's collaborative community tracing is separate and apart from the county's proposed allocations. Dr. Silvernail stated yes. He stated the state's community tracing program would be folding into the Health Department's workforce. He stated they are being hired through the Community Care Network of North Carolina (CCNC). He stated the state has been divided into ten contact investigation regions. Dr. Silvernail stated Pitt County is the third region to receive resources. Commissioner Floyd Huggins asked Dr. Silvernail if he had been in contact with the Old North State Group. Dr. Silvernail stated he has heard of the group but has not had any communication with them.

Commissioner Perkins-Williams spoke about the platform for testing and the line of first defense. She asked about the contact tracing process. Dr. Silvernail stated it begins with the individual. He stated sick individuals should stay home. He stated most contact traces have been very short. He stated most clusters are within family groups. She asked what the criteria is for state tracing. Dr. Silvernail stated there is a regional coordinator and a request process. She asked if county staff has been in contact with Dr. Lenker, Pitt County School Superintendent in regard to reopening schools. Mr. Elliott stated he has not spoken to Dr. Lenker in regard to reopening, but has spoken to him in regard to budget requests. He stated Pitt County Schools received \$8 million of COVID-19 monies to use as needed. He stated the reopening of schools would fall under the Board of Education. Dr. Silvernail stated he is on a first name basis with Dr. Lenker and he has been working with him on the graduation plans. He stated he is sure he will provide input on the reopening of schools.

Commissioner Ward asked Dr. Silvernail how he feels about additional allocations being proposed for testing. Dr. Silvernail stated the state guidance recommends testing 5 percent of the population per month. He stated the proposed plan would get Pitt County to the state recommendation of testing capacity. Mr. Elliott stated in order to meet the 5 percent testing population (~334 people per day), the cost to test the additional individuals (~150) would be \$20,450 per day. He stated if the additional tests were provided through the remainder of the calendar year (7-month period) to which COVID-19 funding is possible, it would cost \$4.5 million. Commissioner Ward requested staff consider the suggestions presented

today, revise the proposed allocations list and bring it back before the Commissioners on Monday, June 1, 2020.

Commissioner Albright asked for the timeline and cost for setting up a testing lab at Public Health. Dr. Silvernail stated the Abbott instrument used for testing ranges from \$5,000. He stated the testing cartridges are about \$45.00. He stated there is a high demand for the instrument at this time with a 7,000 person wait list. He stated depending on the type of instrument purchased, it could be between \$5,000-\$20,000. He stated conservatively, it would take ninety days to get a testing lab up and running. Commissioner Albright asked if it would defray cost to collaborate with another Health Department and/or Vidant. Dr. Silvernail stated Vidant has been trying to increase their capacity to test in house. He stated they are struggling with the reagent side. He stated they are also having some differences in the performance characteristics of their platforms. He stated their capacity is currently limited by the reagents.

Vice Chairman Coulson stated he doesn't believe we should distribute money to any of the municipalities at this particular point. He stated additional testing is going to be very expensive and the municipalities will benefit from having the additional testing sites. He asked Dr. Silvernail if he has completed the reopening plan. Dr. Silvernail stated he will have it ready by the next Board of Health meeting. Vice Chairman Coulson stated there will also be costs associated with the reopening plan.

Commissioner Floyd Huggins asked what percentage of the population is proposed by Dr. Silvernail. Mr. Elliott stated the guidance from the state is 5 percent and the guidance from the CDC is 2 percent. He stated there is no requirement for either one. She stated she would like to see 2 percent of the population tested.

Commissioner Ward stated she would like staff to meet between now and Monday, June 1st and revise the proposed allocations.

Commissioner White stated she would like the allocations included for personnel costs of employees substantially dedicated to COVID-19.

Adjourn

Chairman McLawhorn adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly W. Hines
Clerk to the Board

Appendix 1

CARES Act Spending Plan Proposal



CARES Act Spending Plan Proposal

**Board of County Commissioners' Special Called Meeting
Wednesday May 27, 2020
10:00 AM**

- The \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 27
- The CARES Act included \$150 billion in state and local aid and North Carolina was allocated \$4 billion
- HB1043 was passed by the N.C. General Assembly and signed by Governor Cooper on May 4. It directed \$150 million in immediate aid to counties, with an additional \$150 million in reserve
- Pitt County will receive \$3,190,732 million in aid to respond to the coronavirus

- Funds must be used to respond to COVID-19
- Permitted use include: Personal protective equipment (PPE), disinfectants, compensation for employees who significantly deal with COVID-19, actions to promote social distancing guidelines, teleworking equipment, testing, and compensation for employees out on Emergency Leave/Emergency FMLA are permitted uses
- Reimbursements of costs to municipal governments is permitted
- Offsetting revenue shortfalls is not a permitted use of the funds

- Reimburse eligible expenses prior to receiving funds
- Personal protective equipment
- Equipment for teleworking and telemedicine
- Reimbursements of costs to municipal governments partners
- Testing for vulnerable populations
- Building modifications and disinfectants activities
- Personnel cost for employee leave, emergency FMLA and staff who are substantially dedicated to responding to COVID-19
- Non-congregate housing expenses



Year to Date County \$\$

- Pitt County has incurred \$244,937.72 in dedicated expenses to date responding to the coronavirus
- The amount includes personnel cost for emergency leave/FMLA, teleworking equipment, PPE, costs to shelter vulnerable populations in hotels, social distancing barriers and signage
- Does not include staff costs for dedicated COVID-19 response.

- \$319K – Emergency Employee Leave (10%)
- \$638K – Testing and Testing Supplies (20%)
- \$63K – Telemedicine at HD (2%)
- \$100K – Personal Protective Equipment (3.15%)
- \$490K – Facility Cleaning, Barriers, and Building Improvements
- \$478K – Municipal Allocation (15%)
- \$191K – Personnel Costs of Employees Substantially Dedicated to COVID-19 (6%)
- \$16K – Improvements to telework (.50%)
- \$48K – Detention Operations (1.5%)
- \$48K – Non-Congregate Sheltering (1.5%)
- \$798K – Contingency for non foreseen costs (25%)



Municipal Requests

Municipality	Requested Amount
Ayden	\$10,000
Bethel	\$320.22
Falkland	-
Farmville	\$94,047
Fountain	-
Greenville	\$1,566,580
Grifton	-
Grimesland	\$700
Simpson	\$0
Winterville	\$332,636.83
Total	\$2,004,284.05
CARES Act Funding	\$3,190,732

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- Receive feedback from BOCC
- Submit Plan by June 1st
- Create Agreement with Municipalities
- Receive Funding – TBA
- Submit Progress Reports to State - TBA
- Submit any Changes to the State for Approval
- Expecting some Type of Final Audit after December 30, 2020



QUESTIONS