



## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 8.

**DATE OF MEETING:** July 12, 2010

**REQUESTED BY:** Glenda Pridgen, Administrative Assistant to the County Manager

**SHORT TITLE:** Resolution Approving the Payment of Membership Dues: The School of Government: \$5,291; North Carolina Association of County Commissioners: \$6,576; Cape Fear Council of Governments: \$21,203 (\$5,000 goes for Rural Transportation Planning Organization).

**BACKGROUND:** The County is a member of various organizations for various reasons. These items were included in the budget; this action simply authorizes the County Manager to prepare purchase orders and disburse these funds.

**SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:** Approve the payment of membership fees and dues for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION**

Respectfully recommend approval.

RTB  
Initial

**RESOLUTION**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Pender County Board of Commissioners that

the County Manager is authorized to pay membership dues as follows: The School of Government: \$5,291; North Carolina Association of County Commissioners: \$6,576; and Cape Fear Council of Governments: \$21,203. The County Manager is authorized to execute any/all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

**AMENDMENTS:**

MOVED \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDED \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DENIED \_\_\_\_\_ UNANIMOUS

YEA VOTES: Tate \_\_\_ Blanchard \_\_\_ Brown \_\_\_ Rivenbark \_\_\_ Williams \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jimmy T. Tate, Chairman 7/12/10  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST 7/12/10  
Date

# SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT FOUNDATION, INC.

March 12, 2010

---

Mr. Rick Benton  
Manager  
Pender County  
PO Box 5  
Burgaw, NC 28425-0005

Dear Mr. Benton:

The School of Government remains dedicated to meeting the needs of local governments, but we understand that those needs have changed. Therefore, we are working to be as responsive as possible.

**We are listening** to public officials. Over the past few months, I have traveled across the state to meet with managers, department heads, elected officials, and others in order to hear more about the specific challenges facing local governments.

**We are acting** on the information gathered from these meetings.

- The School has added courses and webinars to address urgent issues and has shifted emphasis in some existing courses to address pressing concerns around the economy.
- Faculty members are researching and sharing information about strategies that will help governments not only weather these difficult times, but build strength for the future.
- We continue to offer expanded content in blogs and on resource websites at no cost.

This is a time that calls for a strengthened partnership between the School and local governments. **We could not act this quickly or develop these resources if not for membership dues.** Because the School is facing its own significant budget challenges, your dues are more important than ever. The School has eliminated positions, reduced expenses, improved efficiency, and now we are preparing for our next round of permanent budget cuts from the state. **We have reduced our budget but not our services.** We are able to maintain the level and quality of our services because of your steadfast support through membership dues.

Because we understand your financial constraints, the School will not increase your membership dues for the 2010–2011 fiscal year; they will remain at the same level for a third straight year. Your membership dues invoice will be sent in early July, as usual, and the amount will be \$5,291.00.

If you have questions about your dues, do not hesitate to contact Brad Volk, the School's associate dean for administration, at 919.843.2553 or [volk@sog.unc.edu](mailto:volk@sog.unc.edu). If I may be of assistance, please contact me at 919.966.4107 or [msmith@sog.unc.edu](mailto:msmith@sog.unc.edu).

Sincerely,

*Michael Smith*

Michael R. Smith, Dean

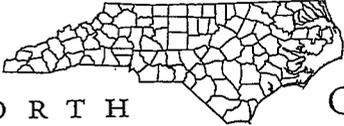


UNC  
SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Knapp-Sanders Building Campus Box 3330 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330

T 919.966.9780 F 919.843.2528 [www.sog.unc.edu](http://www.sog.unc.edu)



N O R T H                      C A R O L I N A  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

April 16, 2010

The Honorable Jimmy Tate  
5500 NC Highway 11  
Willard, NC 28478

Dear Chairman Tate:

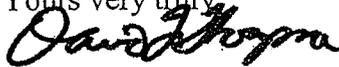
I am pleased to inform you that, for the second consecutive year, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners has lowered its dues in response to the fiscal crisis facing our counties. For 2010-11, Pender County's dues will be \$6,576, a decrease of \$167 from 2009-10. In 2009-10, your dues were lowered by \$481 from your 2008-09 dues.

I want to assure you that even though the NCACC Board of Directors lowered county dues, the Board remains committed to providing effective and efficient services to counties. The decrease in dues will in no way adversely impact the services and programs the Association offers for counties. The enclosed brochure highlights for you many of our ongoing programs that are designed to help counties meet the changing demands of our rapidly growing state.

Our Risk Management Pools continue to provide affordable liability and property, workers' compensation, and group benefits services for our members. Even counties that do not participate in our pools benefit because our presence in the marketplace creates competition for commercial providers and forces them to upgrade their products while keeping their rates reasonable. Our Debt Setoff and EMS Medicaid Enhancement programs continue to generate extra revenues for members.

We look forward to another successful year in which we are united in the common purpose of representing the interests of North Carolina's county governments. We encourage you to visit our Web site at [www.ncacc.org](http://www.ncacc.org) for the most current information on county issues, and we look forward to seeing you Aug. 26-29 at our 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference in Pitt County.

Yours very truly,



David F. Thompson  
NCACC Executive Director

cc: Board of Commissioners  
County Manager  
Finance Officer

RECEIVED MAY - 4 2010

**Cape Fear Council of Governments**  
**1480 Harbour Drive**  
**Wilmington, NC 28401**

Statement 1011DS-037

**STATEMENT**

Name	Mr. Rick Benton		
	County Manager		
	Pender County		
Address	P O Box 5		
City	Burgaw	State NC	ZIP 28425-0005

Date	03/08/10

Qty	Description	Unit Cost	TOTAL
1	<p>Membership Dues for the period July 1, 2010 though June 30, 2011</p> <p>NC State Demographer population estimate as of July 2008; 51,853</p> <p>In consideration of the current economic situation membership dues remain the same as for the previous two years.</p> <p>Dues &amp; Matching Funds leverage \$7 million for services to citizens of the Cape Fear Region.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support.</p>	\$ 21,203.00	\$ 21,203.00

Subtotal 21,203.00

**If you wish to pay from this statement:**

Payee: Cape Fear Council of Governments  
 Account Receivable  
 1480 Harbour Drive  
 Wilmington, NC 28401  
 Fed Id# 560949863

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 21,203.00</b>

Office Use Only
-----------------

*Progress through Cooperation*

**RECEIVED APR 22 2010**



CAPE FEAR  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Dues

Serving  
Local  
Government in:

**Brunswick  
County**  
Bald Head Island  
Belville  
Boiling Spring Lakes  
Bolivia  
Calabash  
Carolina Shores  
Caswell Beach  
Holden Beach  
Leland  
Navassa  
Northwest  
Oak Island  
Ocean Isle Beach  
Sandy Creek  
Shalotte  
Southport  
St. James  
Sunset Beach

**Columbus  
County**  
Bolton  
Brunswick  
Cerro Gordo  
Chadbourne  
Fair Bluff  
Lake Waccamaw  
Sandyfield  
Tabor City  
Whiteville

**New Hanover  
County**  
Carolina Beach  
Kure Beach  
Wilmington  
Wrightsville Beach

**Pender  
County**  
Atkinson  
Burgaw  
Surf City  
Topsail Beach

April 20, 2010

Mr. Rick Benton  
County Manager Pender County  
P.O. Box 5  
Burgaw, North Carolina 28425-0005

**SUBJECT: Cape Fear Council of Governments Dues/Match 2010  
Requested Contribution \$21,203**

Dear Rick:

I know that you and the Commissioners will be wrestling with external contributions again this year so I wanted to send you information on the Cape Fear COG. It is likely that most on your BOC have no real clue about what we do or how it ties in to Pender County, and would benefit from a brief summary.

**Background:**

The Cape Fear Council of Governments was established in 1972 by the NC General Assembly and subsequent resolution of Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, and Pender Counties along with the municipalities therein to serve at the pleasure of our membership to provide planning, economic development, and human services. Over the past 38 years we have assisted county residents whether in a municipality or outside with programs and direct services in support of the diverse local government needs. I have attached a more in-depth discussion of all the ways we assist our 41 local government members, but will limit this to specifically what we do specifically for Pender County.

In outlining our justification it is important to note that our governing board is composed of a county commissioner from each of the four counties, one elected member of the City of Wilmington governing board, and three municipal governing board members from the other three counties. They serve for the express purpose of setting policy for the COG that meets the collective goals for the greater whole. Therefore, we are indeed an extension of those we serve and subject to the policy and fiscal mandates of the same governing board members that govern our membership. Pender has two representatives: Commissioner F.D. Rivenbark and Councilman Howard Walker-Burgaw.

PROGRESS  
THROUGH  
COOPERATION

The 41 local governments in the region share the cost of the total operations through dues. **Your \$21,203 contribution is based upon a pro-rated cost derived per-capita paid proportionately by each of the 41 members and leverages over \$7 million for our Cape Fear Region...not a bad return!**

#### **Senior Services:**

The Pender County contribution is primarily used as match for Administering the Older Americans Act Community Development Block Grant that funds the County's Department of Aging and subsequent senior services, such as: congregate and home delivered meals, transportation, in-home aide services, minor home repairs, legal services, adult day care/day health, senior center operations, information/case assistance, and health promotion/disease prevention...all through the Cape Fear Area Agency on Aging (AAA). The AAA also provides the services of two Regional Long Term Care Ombudsmen who attempt to resolve complaints made by or on behalf of residents in long term care facilities. Finally, the AAA is responsible for the federally mandated Family Caregiver Support Program which provides information, education, and limited respite service to caregivers of older persons not in a facility.

#### **Workforce/Jobs/Training:**

The Pender contribution also supports the Cape Fear Workforce Development Program which is governed by the four County Workforce Consortium Board (Commissioner F.D. Rivenbark is your representative) as well as a Workforce Development Board of Directors composed of a cross section of the community served. Cape Fear WFD receives and administers the Workforce Investment Act grant for Pender County, providing funds to support Adult, Dislocated workers, and Youth employment and training activities accessed by Pender citizens through the local JobLink Centers and contractors/Service providers we monitor. The goal of this program is to provide a variety of training options that will lead to viable employment, job retention, increased earnings, and a better quality of life for all of Pender County Citizens. With unemployment soaring, our need to assist your citizens could not be greater! Recently, the Cape Fear Youth Ambassadors Program (part of our WFD initiative) was recognized as the Outstanding County Program by NCACC for successfully empowering youth to stay in school so they can be contributing members of the workforce.

#### **Local Government Services:**

Two planners and the Executive Director provide Planning, zoning, and land use technical assistance, ordinance amendments and re-writes, grants

writing, personnel, finance and budgeting expertise, training for advisory boards like the Board of Adjustment and Planning Board, and professional facilitation services to elected and appointed boards for strategic and fiscal planning. For example, in Pender this past year we spent a tremendous amount of time assisting Topsail, Atkinson, Surf City, Burgaw, and your staff with direct technical assistance in planning and/or administration. We also administer the Rural (RPO) Transportation Planning counterpart to the MPO serving the non-metro areas of the four county region while participating directly with the MPO to bring a regional perspective to the table.

**Summary:**

The Cape Fear Council of Governments was chartered by the local governments the Cape Fear Region to serve their collective needs in support of regional solutions. We continue to act as your convener and clearing house of regional initiatives to present a united front that enhances our individual needs. In a time when much attention is being focused on value-added programs, the Cape Fear COG is proud of our service to Pender County. **As the stewards of public funds we set the standard for all others with administrative costs that represent less than one percent of our total expenses!** The Pender contribution matched with the other members' dues raises three percent of our total budget while leveraging over \$7 million in direct services to our region! We think you would agree we have earned your trust by maximizing tax dollars to achieve the highest ratio of investment to benefits. The CFCOG is committed to being your regional voice, local government champion, and partner in service to the citizens who look to us during these difficult times. Together we will continue to seek regional solutions to local problems and meet the high expectations of our citizens.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris May,  
Executive Director