



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 24.

DATE OF MEETING: August 2, 2010

REQUESTED BY: Erik Harvey, Director, ITS Department

SHORT TITLE: Resolution to Approve Pender County Seal

BACKGROUND: The current County Seal is monochrome and various county departments have requested a more detailed and color version of the Pender County Seal. The new color version of the Pender County Seal shows more detail and will be used on county vehicles, websites, and documents.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: Approve new detailed color version of the Pender County Seal as the official seal.

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Respectfully recommend approval.


Initial

RESOLUTION

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

the new detailed color version of the Pender County Seal be authorized as the official seal of Pender County. The County Manager is authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

AMENDMENTS:

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____

APPROVED _____ DENIED _____ UNANIMOUS

YEA VOTES: Tate ___ Brown ___ Blanchard ___ Rivenbark ___ Williams ___

Jimmy T. Tate, Chairman

08/2/10
Date

ATTEST

8/2/10
Date

The Pender County Seal

The county seal of Pender County is symbolic of the historical foundation of our county's economy. Depicted in the seal is the tapping of a pine tree representing the naval stores industry. This activity dominated the economy in southeastern NC from colonial days, past Pender's founding in 1875, to the latter years of the nineteenth century. Tar and pitch, used for caulking the seams of wooden ships, were highly sought products by seagoing nations. The source of these commodities was the Long Leaf Pine, an abundant local natural resource. This industry fueled the local economy for generations contributing to the livelihood of citizens from all walks of life. After the Civil War, the industry began a slow decline well into the early part of the twentieth century as tobacco began to take hold as a cash crop.

Pictured in the county seal is the initial step of turpentine production. A "V" would be cut through the bark of a pine from which the exuding semi-solid resinous flow would be collected and distilled into turpentine. Turpentine was considered the golden product of the state from 1840 until the Civil War. It was used to make camphene which grew in use as a replacement for candles and whale oil as a source of lighting. Another byproduct was rosin, which was used mainly as an oil ingredient in making soaps, additional forms of lighting fuels, and a mechanical lubricant.

The vast forests of this area supplied these products that made Wilmington the leading exporting seaport in the world of naval stores. The Northeast Cape Fear River, the Black River, and the Cape Fear River, all flowing in our county, served as prime transportation routes to bring these products to port. The building through the center of our county of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad in 1840, followed by two other rail lines through the coastal and western regions, further improved the delivery of naval stores from the countryside to the port city.

Although the actual date of adoption of the county seal is lost to history, the depiction was one that most citizens could identify in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the primary economic activity of our county. Little remains physically in Pender County today to remind us of this early stimulus of commerce and industry except this official seal and shallow depressions found throughout our forests where tar was once collected from kilns. North Carolina is still popularly known as "The Tar Heel State" and echoes this memory of tar burners and turpentine gatherers in our region.

Mike Taylor, Director
Pender County Public Library
July 2001



