



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 2a.

DATE OF MEETING: January 4, 2011

REQUESTED BY: Rick Benton, County Manager

SHORT TITLE: Resolution Approving 2011 Legislative Agenda for Pender County

BACKGROUND: The 2011 session of the General Assembly begins January 26, 2011. A legislative agenda comprised of priority issues important to Pender County has been prepared for consideration by the Board, to share with the Pender County legislative delegation- Representative Carolyn Justice and Senator-elect Bill Rabon. The proposed legislative agenda is attached for Board consideration.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: To consider a resolution approving the 2011 Legislative Agenda.

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Respectfully recommend approval.

MB
Initial

RESOLUTION

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

the Board hereby approves the 2011 Legislative Agenda. The Chairman/County Manager is authorized to execute any/all documents necessary to implement this resolution.

AMENDMENTS:

MOVED _____ SECONDED _____

APPROVED _____ DENIED _____ UNANIMOUS

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

George R. Brown, Jr., Chairman Date

ATTEST Date

**PENDER COUNTY
2011 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Issue	Description	Position
US 17 Corridor	Funding for the by-pass project, as well as funding for access and safety improvements are critical for the future of this highway corridor.	Identify funding for implementation of access and safety improvements; expedite by-pass funding availability.
Hawksbill Cove-Traffic Signal	The developers have agreed to pay for and install traffic signalization at the intersection of Transfer Station Road and US 17, and desire to move forward expeditiously.	Support NCDOT approval for expeditious installation by the developer.
Sills Creek Drainage Grant	The County has applied for DENR-Division of Water Resources for project funding-up to \$75,000 of a \$150,000 project cost.	Advocate support for the Pender County Sills Creek Drainage Project Grant.
Local Government Revenues	Traditional local government revenues are often targeted to balance the State's budget during difficult economic times.	Protect county revenue streams as the State struggles to balance its budget.
Public Education	The Pender County School System is facing a potential \$5 million shortfall for FY 11-12 depending on the State budget.	Support DPI's "Fund Schools First" initiative that promotes the need to provide basic, adequate funding; and protect traditional public school revenue streams.
Beach Nourishment Funding	Historically the State has provided 75% of project costs, and there is concern for a reduction in the State's commitment, putting a greater burden on local communities.	Maintain 75% funding level for nourishment projects.
Annexation	Forced annexations are of concern for residents of unincorporated areas around municipalities.	Support modernizing annexation laws to protect citizens while assuring balanced and efficient public services.
Taxation of HOA Property	Off-site HOA properties such as clubhouses are escaping taxation by the jurisdiction in which they are located.	Close loophole in GS 105-277.8.
Sales Taxes on Accommodations	Sales and occupancy taxes are escaping collection through increased internet bookings.	Clarify statutes on these taxes on rental properties to protect local revenues.
Jail Inmate Medical Care	County jails are facing increasing financial and legal pressures in providing medical care to inmates.	Support legislation providing authority to counties to enhance their ability to finance inmate care.
Interbasin Transfer (IBT)	Interbasin transfer (IBT) refers to the withdrawal of water from one river basin and discharging it into a different river basin. Interbasin transfer is currently regulated under N.C. General Statutes, including G.S. 143-215.22I. State statutes divide N.C. into 18 major river basins that are subsequently divided into 38 sub-basins. Transfer of water between any of the 38 sub-basins potentially constitutes a regulated IBT, even when the two sub-basins are within the same major river basin. The effect is that many municipalities and citizens who live in sub-basins have no access to significant water supply sources without obtaining an IBT Certificate from the EMC-a \$1 million expense and 5 year endeavor with no guarantee of an IBT Certificate.	Pender County is divided into 4 sub-basins making securing an IBT Certification and delivering water across the county nearly prohibitive. Support legislation to remove "sub-basins" from the definition of river basin to provide that DWR and EMC govern by the same basins, as recommended by the NC AWWA.
Local Bill-Health Insurance Plan	The BOCC has a request from the BOE to allow BOE elected officials to participate in the County's health insurance plan; there is no explicit authority in current statutes.	The BOCC would like delegation thoughts on a potential local bill providing authority to allow the Pender County BOE elected officials to participate in the County's health insurance plan.
Local Bill-Economic Tier Designation	Pender County is designated Tier 3 while neighboring counties competing for new industry are Tier 1, putting Pender at a competitive disadvantage with respect to recruitment.	The BOCC would like delegation consideration for a local bill to apply Tier 1 incentive credits to the US 421 industrial corridor.