PUBLIC INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 1.

DATE OF MEETING: April 18, 2011

REQUESTED BY: Amber Parker, Human Resources Director

SHORT TITLE: Recognition of the National County Government Month Essay Contest Winners

BACKGROUND: The Board requested the development of an essay contest to be held in-connection with National County Government Month as a way to increase educational opportunities and citizen participation in the annual event.

Pender County Government partnered with Pender County Schools to create a fourth grade essay contest on, "Life without County Government." The contest was administered through Pender County fourth grade history classes and resulted in 177 essays from 11 classes from three different Pender County Schools.

The teacher of each class scored all essays and selected the top essay or essays for anonymous judging at the county level. The essays were scored based upon originality, strength of argument/defense, organization, spelling and grammar and neatness.

An essay review committee was created to review 23 essays and they selected the top two essays to forward to the Board of County Commissioners for the selection of a winner. The Board of Commissioners determined the winning and second place essays.

The winner of the "Life without County Government" essay contest is Seferino Bautista from Shannon Humphrey and Principal Stephen Buchanan's fourth grade history class at Malpass Corner Elementary School.

The second place winner of the "Life without County Government" essay contest is Elizabeth Cooper from Terese Briggs and Principal Peter Wildeboer's fourth grade history class at North Topsail Elementary School.

Chairman George R. Brown, Jr. will present the awards on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and the students will be provided an opportunity to read their essays.

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What do you think it would be like without local government in Pender county? well, I'm going to tell you what it would be like. Things just wouldn't be right! If there were no schools, we wouldn't have any where to learn. The government in Pender County consists of the Sheriff's Department the hospital, fire departments, Social service workers, tax officials and count workers. As citizens we wouldn't be safe without Police or get better without the hospitals. County commissioners get money or taxes from your parents over 50% of the County budget goes to our schools. If there were no police man, criminals would be everywhere. Our community wouldn't be safe. Would you want that to happen to you? I know I wouldn't. County commissioners decide if whether they should build new buildings. Their job rotates every four years. If you were a commissioner you would have to follow certain rules. First you have to be honest, you have to be fair, show respect and be patient. Think about your Public library. If there werent librarians we wouldn't know where certain books are. If you were doing a project or a report we wouldn't be able to find proper information. If there

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wasn't local government in Pender County there wouldn't be a 911 center to answer our calls for help! It would be a disaster! I love my county I am proud of our government officials for all the hard work they do for the citizens of pender County. when I grow up I hope to be a county Commissioner.

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In the starting of the world, there was no government. In this time the world was chaos. People had hardly any food, health, homes, water, warm clothes, or education. Many items were stolen during this time. Now we have government. If we went back to this time, this is how I think it will be.

Without the Board Of Elections, people would not have fair votings if they come together to vote. There wouldn't even be votings!

No Emergancy Management or Health Department would mean that uncontrolled forest fires would be everywhere! People would not have medicine if they were in a fire or flood, and would not know if smoking is good or bad for your health.

Without the Finance Department, Housing Authority, Technology services, Public libraries, or Public works we wouldn't have any safe banks or good homes for the poor. We wouldn't have ways to use communication, No good books to explain things or how to cook. We wouldn't even have bug spray! Life would be helpless!

Having the Sheriff's office, Social Services, Solid Waste, or Tax collections not exist, would mean No peace, laws, protection, and children would be mistreated. We wouldn't have trashcacans to put our garbage in, or taxes. Without trash cans we would have bad air

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pollution that could lead to sickness.
Without government we would not have any good schools, gas stations, playgrounds, books, banks, or laws. Life in Pender County would be terrible.