

MONDAY, MAY 5, 2008

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, May 5, 2008 at the Pender County Public Assembly Room, 805 South Walker Street, Burgaw, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman James David Williams, Jr., presiding; Vice Chairman Jimmy Tate; and Commissioners Norwood Blanchard, George Brown and F.D. Rivenbark.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Al Greene, Interim County Manager and Clerk to the Board; Trey Thurman, County Attorney; Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board; other staff and members of the Press and public.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and thanked all attending the meeting and welcomed all.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Brown Tate offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Blanchard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Introduction of New State Representative – Ms. Sandra Spaulding Hughes.

Mr. Williams invited Ms. Hughes to the podium. Ms. Hughes thanked Mr. Williams for inviting her to the meeting, thanked the Board for their public service and said she looks forward to working with the Board and citizens of Pender County. She said her mission in Pender County is to improve the quality of life for all its citizens. Ms. Hughes said she received a letter concerning the Maple Hill Sewer Project and had attended a community meeting and she identified the project as a “number one need.” She said she will follow up on the grant application and make sure other legislators are aware of the needs of this community. Ms. Hughes said she wants to maintain strong communication with the Commissioners in order to represent the citizens. Mr. Williams thanked Ms. Hughes for coming and said he also wants to maintain an open line of communication.

2. Update on the Wallace Sewer: Town of Burgaw Mayor Pete Cowan.

Mr. Cowan said he commends the County for being proactive and taking care of the trees at the Courthouse. He said families may want to replace the trees being cut down in memory of some of their family members, asked the Board to keep the Town aware of what’s happening at the Courthouse, and thanked the County for its support of festivals held there. Mr. Cowan said the engineering part of the Wallace Sewer Treatment Plant as it relates to Burgaw is complete; that the preliminary engineering report has been submitted to the USDA; that the environmental assessment has been submitted; that one lift station site remains to be acquired and the Town is in negotiations to obtain the property; that a redesign of the facility by engineers for the Town of Wallace is complete and town officials anticipate bids to be received beginning in the fourth quarter of the year; that according to Wallace officials, the redesign identified about \$7 Million in cost savings, that that they are complete as to tying up the loose ends as far as the Burgaw portion is concerned; and that until construction starts in Wallace, Burgaw will not do any construction. Mr. Cowan then quoted a statement made by Chairman Williams in the February 20th edition of the *Pender Post* in which Mr. Williams was critical of Burgaw Town of Wallace Sewer Project. The quote Mr. Cowan referred to was “Nothing personal, but it is a bad deal. It is not an equitable deal for the citizens of Pender County.” Mr. Cowan asked Mr. Williams if he had possibly misspoken or was this statement reflective of his true opinion of the agreement. Mr. Williams responded “If you want to come up here and keep hashing this out, it’s a bad deal, I’ve said it before.” Mr. Blanchard said Mr. Williams is not speaking for other members of the Board. Mr. Williams said he doesn’t appreciate the Mayor “putting him on the spot”; that it is a bad deal for all citizens of the County; that he’s speaking for himself; that he’s disappointed that Mr. Cowan “called him out like that”; and that a former employee was threatened that if he didn’t go along with the proposal for the Town of

Burgaw, he would be fired. Mr. Blanchard said it is best to move on and said he doesn't see any good coming from this.

PUBLIC HEARING

3. Public Hearing and Adoption of the Annual PHA Plan for Fiscal Year 2008 for the Pender County Housing Department.

Housing Director Angela Keith thanked the Board for their support. Ms. Keith thanked Commissioner Blanchard for representing Pender County with his statement on affordable housing at the Affordable Housing Summit. Ms. Keith explained that the Pender County Housing Department is in the fourth year of a submitted Streamline five-year plan for 2005-2009, as required every five years. She said that in addition, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that annually, each housing agency submit an agency plan that updates the progress in meeting the five-year mission and goals. She said that this is the public hearing for comments, and the request for the Board to adopt the annual plan. Mr. Tate made a motion to adopt the Annual PHA Plan for Fiscal Year 2008, Mr. Rivenbark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Williams presented the three items on the Consent Agenda and asked for any questions or discussion. There being none, Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, Mr. Tate seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

4. Resolution Approving Tax Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein.
- 5a. Resolution Accepting Petition to Add South Wisteria Lane in Wallace (Pender County) to the State Maintained System and Authorizing the County Manager to Submit the Petition to N.C. Department of Transportation.
- 5b. Resolution Accepting Petition to Add Lafayette Street in Scotts Hill to the State Maintained System and Authorizing the County Manager to Submit the Petition to N.C. Department of Transportation.

RESOLUTIONS

6. Resolution Approving the Abandonment of a Currently Existing Easement to Bellsouth and the Granting of an Easement in a New Alignment: Progress Drive, Burgaw, North Carolina.

Administrative Assistant Melinda Knoerzer explained that Bellsouth currently has and maintains an easement area behind the Cooperative Extension Building at 801 S. Walker St., along Progress Drive. She said Bellsouth has indicated a need to upgrade their infrastructure in order to keep pace with growth in the Town of Burgaw; that currently, they have a service box placed on a small 10' X 10' easement area on the grass behind the parking area and this is the area they wish to expand; and that in addition, they own a 30' X 30' easement in close proximity to the Cooperative Extension building and if they were to exercise this easement and expand in that footprint, it would require the County to move some parking area, established grassy areas, trees, and shrubbery. Ms. Knoerzer said that as an alternative, Bellsouth has proposed to expand near their currently existing equipment, for which they would need a 40' X 40' easement in exchange; that as part of this agreement, they would abandon the 30' X 30' easement near our building; that no compensation is being offered for this conveyance; that she, Mr. Thurman and former County Manager Lori Brill had met with Bellsouth's right-of-way agent at the site; and that Bellsouth needs to put in larger equipment. Mr. Thurman added that Bellsouth built off their easement into the County's and the County built in Bellsouth easement and that this agreement will put them on their own easement and the County on its own and no one will have to go to the expense of moving. Mr. Rivenbark asked if Mr. Thurman foresees any problems with this in the future and Mr. Thurman said he doesn't foresee any future problems and that this will correct the problem we have now. Mr. Brown asked if it involves any private property and Ms. Knoerzer said "no, it is an easement only with no exchanging of land." Mr. Blanchard made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Rivenbark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

7. Resolution Approving the Revised Scope and Cost of Mill Creek Dredging, Phase 2 and Phase 3, Water Resources Grant.

Ms. Knoerzer explained that Mill Creek is one of several Homeowners Associations along the Intracoastal Waterway and feeding inlets that have taken advantage of NC DENR Water Resources Grants that pay 80% of the cost of waterway clearing projects that enhance water quality while improving navigability and allowing for public access. She said NC DENR has already approved initial funding for this project in the amount of \$80,000 and a

subsequent amount of \$195,000 for Phase III, with the acknowledgment that "this is only a portion of the funds required and that it is the intent of the State to fund the remainder during the Spring State-local grant cycle"; that the project has met initial requirements of the State; that homeowners pay 20% of the costs out of their pockets; that the County provides NO funding for this project; and that costs for the project have gone up and this resolution is asking for permission to ask the State for more money. Ms. Knoerzer said Mr. Stuart Mossman of Mill Creek Waterway Restoration is present to answer any questions. Mr. Tate said he commends Ms. Knoerzer for working with Mill Creek but he is curious about funds for cleaning out Sills Creek and asked has anybody applied for any grants for Sills Creek. He said he had asked staff about this before. Ms. Knoerzer said she doesn't know if this grants applies to inland water but she will ask. She said the grant would require private matching funds and Mr. Tate said there are large land owners in the Sills creek area that could match the grant. Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Tate seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

8. Resolution Authorizing the Release of Escrow Funds to Mallard Bay Dredging Project: \$44,296.31.

Ms. Knoerzer said Mallard Bay contracted with Pender County to undertake a dredging project in two phases; that Phase II was completed with \$442,960 in state funding; that as part of the agreement, the County holds 10% of the project reimbursements to insure that permits are enforced and that the project remains in compliance with the tenets of the program; that the project was completed on April 17, 2006; and that Mallard Bay is now eligible for final reimbursement of the \$44,296.31 currently being held in escrow. Mr. Steve Bundy was present to represent George Robertson, acting President of Mallard Bay Dredging Project, and showed aerial photos of the area that was dredged. Mr. Blanchard made a motion to release the escrow funds, Mr. Tate seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

9. Resolution Approving the Annual Plan and Funding Recommendations of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

Parks and Recreation Director Dee Turner explained that the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) is a state mandated county board tasked with overseeing the distribution of state funds for programs serving youth who are currently in the juvenile justice system or are at-risk of entering it; that the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has projected that the Pender County JCPC will receive \$115,855 in funding for FY08-09 and to receive these funds the JCPC must complete an Annual Plan; that the major component of the plan is doing an assessment summary of the risks, needs and available resources for the youth of Pender County; that as a result of these assessment summaries, funding priorities were established for needed programs and a request for proposals was advertised for programs that could meet those identified needs; and that based on proposals received, the Pender County JCPC recommends that the following programs receive funding: Skills for Success-\$10,140, Juvenile Restitution/Community Service-\$20,200, Teen Court-\$13,000, Administration-\$15,500, and Unallocated-\$57,015. Mr. Tate asked if this was the same level of funding provided as last year excluding unallocated and Ms. Turner replied "pretty close." She said more money was put in administration to include training for board members and the development of a Gang Task Force Steering Committee for Pender County. Ms. Turner explained that funds were being unallocated this year since a proposal was not received for psychological services. The JCPC will use the unallocated funds to contract the needed psychological assessments and/or treatment needed by adjudicated youth. Ms. Turner stated the reason for handling psychological services this way is due to the mental health reform and Southeastern Mental Health not being able to provide the services anymore. Mr. Tate asked what the success rate is and are the juveniles getting out of the system. Ms. Turner said some of the programs have only a 10% recidivism rate. Mr. Tate suggested that at the county level, Ms. Turner put together a Summer Enrichment Program rather than just passing through funds. Mr. Rivenbark said Representative Justice had come before the Board at an earlier meeting and discussed the State cutting funding for Southeastern Mental Health Services for the last five years and was contracting services out with the end result being the emergency rooms and Sheriff's Department getting a lot more activity. Mr. Brown noted that he is a member of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Blanchard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

10. Resolution Requesting the Board Set a Minimal Funding Level of \$70,000 for Fire Departments in Pender County.

Roger Anderson, Chairman of the Pender County Fire Commission, explained that at its April 22, 2008 meeting, the Fire Commission voted to request the Board of Commissioners to reinstate a minimum funding level for Pender

County Fire Departments. He said that based upon current economic conditions, the Fire Commission recommends a minimum funding level of \$70,000 be established, with an annual review of that amount in future budgets. Mr. Anderson said that prior to the 2006 fire service tax increase that was granted by the Commissioners, a minimum funding level had been in effect for more than 10 years, that the tax rate increase raised the lower earning departments above the previous minimum level of \$30,000, but as the cost of operating a fire department has continued to increase and as older fire equipment reaches the end of its useful life, some departments are finding it more difficult to maintain a level of service at existing funding levels. Mr. Anderson said that the Maple Hill Tax District only generated \$42,444 in revenue in the current budget at a \$.07 tax rate; that with most of their fire equipment greater than twenty years old and now reaching the end of its useful life, the department desires to replace one of its older trucks with a newer apparatus, but at current funding levels it will be difficult for them to make this purchase so they approached the Firefighters Association and the Fire Commissions asking for assistance and both groups unanimously voted to direct the Maple Hill Board of Directors to request funding assistance from the County; that the cost to the County for this increase will be approximately \$28,550 based on FY07-08 revenue projections; that this will give Maple Hill Fire Department an additional \$27,556 and will also increase Shiloh-Columbia just under \$1,000, bringing both departments to \$70,000; that funds for the increase are available in the Undesignated Fire Tax Fund Balance, which is currently at \$53,102.87; and that the request is to increase the minimum funding level for Pender County Fire Departments to \$70,000 for the upcoming FY08-09 budget year, with an annual review of that amount during the budget process in future years. Mr. Rivenbark noted that several years ago the County supplemented Maple Hill and Shiloh Fire Departments. Mr. Williams asked if the money will have to be there in the future, will we have to do something else such as go to the General Fund or increase taxes. Mr. Thurman said the Budget Ordinance will supercede any resolution. Mr. Blanchard asked if they don't get help, will their ISO rating go down. Mr. Ken Jones of the Maple Hill Fire Department discussed the limited funding, the small size of the district, and said they made the ISO rating this time, but were "sitting right on the edge." Mr. Blanchard said with the additional Marines coming to the area, maybe they can get additional revenue. Mr. Tate asked if Shiloh's equipment is in the same condition as Maple Hills' and Mr. Anderson said "it is just a little better." Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Blanchard seconded the motion, with the stipulation that Mr. Anderson will send a letter to Mr. Edwin Causey seeking a grant from Rural Development, and it was unanimously approved. Mr. Blanchard also said the letter should state they are seeking help to help keep them from losing their accreditation. Mr. Tate commended the gentlemen of the Maple Hill Fire Department for doing a good job, even though they don't have updated equipment.

11. Resolution Authorizing Purchase Order to McPherson Hauling for Site Preparation Work for the New Public Safety Communications Tower off of NC Hwy 53 East: \$7,000.

Sheriff Carson Smith gave an overview of Items 11, 12 and 13. Sheriff Smith said the new County Emergency Communication Tower is in the spec and bid process and the entire project will be completed using Federal Homeland Security funding approved by Washington, DC, except for two items the grant would not fund. He said the money has been budgeted in the County CIP Fund for the past two years. He said the first item the grant won't cover is the actual cost of the property, but through a lease agreement, the County has acquired a long-term lease on property owned by the Pender County School Board off of NC Hwy 53. The other non-grant item is the site preparation work on the property. He said the County requested and received three informal bids to construct a road and clear the property for the actual tower site and the bids received were: McPherson Hauling-\$7,000, Landwise, Inc.-\$15,586, and Hutcheson Landscaping, Inc.-\$18,000. Sheriff Smith said because the bids were such a wide range, they contacted McPherson to make sure they understood the full specs. Mr. Blanchard made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Rivenbark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

12. Resolution Authorizing Purchase Order to Communication Specialists for the Purchase of New Antennas, Mounts and Transmission Line for the New Public Safety Communications Tower: \$9,665.

Sheriff Smith explained that once the new Public Safety Communications Tower is constructed, the existing fire, EMS, and law enforcement radios will be moved from the County's existing tower on White Stocking Road to the new tower. Mr. Rivenbark asked if this is to receive better emergency communication and Sheriff Smith said it is more for paging services and will have increased height benefits. Mr. Blanchard made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Tate seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

13. Resolution Authorizing Purchase Order to Communication Specialists for the Purchase and Installation of New Radio Equipment to Improve Fire Department Notification in Coastal Pender County: \$10,916.90.

Sheriff Smith said once the new communication tower is complete, it will be further from the five fire departments in the coastal areas of the County and that to increase the effectiveness of paging for these departments, a new radio will be installed on a cellular telephone tower in the Hampstead area that will transmit information from the 911 Center to responders in the coastal areas. Mr. Tate made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

14. Resolution Authorizing Staff to Negotiate an Agreement for Services with The Wooten Company for the Development of a Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, Small Area Plans, and Unified Development Ordinance for a Total Estimated Budget of \$222,000, to be Funded over Two Fiscal Years.

Interim Planning Director Ken Vafier explained that former Planning Director Joey Raczkowski on November 5, 2007 presented to the Board of Commissioners a request by Planning staff to disseminate a Request for Proposals (RFP) to contract with a firm for the development of a Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, Small Area Plans, and Unified Development Ordinance, and it was unanimously approved by the Board. Mr. Vafier said the County received seven proposals which were reviewed by a panel consisting of Planning staff and Interim County Manager Al Greene; that the panel selected three firms to interview and each firm was ranked based upon the qualifications of the project team, similar project experience, project approach, and estimated budget; that the Wooten Company of Raleigh, NC was recommended to be awarded the contract, contingent upon successful negotiation of an agreement for services; that the agreement will be presented to the Board for final approval; and that it is an 18 to 24 month project. Mr. Tate made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Rivenbark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

DISCUSSIONS

15. Reconsider Findings of Fact on Special Use Permit that was Denied at the March 17, 2008 Meeting.

Mr. Thurman explained that a special use permit request for the operation of salvage and scrap metal processing was denied by the Board on March 17, 2008, pursuant to Subsection 15.3(b) of the Zoning Ordinance. He said that R.V. Biberstein, Attorney for the Applicant, requested specific facts supporting the motion, and that the resolution is being amended to list the findings of fact, which are basically wording for the motion. The findings of fact are: 1) the proposed SUP would result in loud and piercing noise inconsistent with the rural and residential neighborhood; 2) the use of heavy vehicles on the roadway given the limited sight distance would create a risk to the safety of the community; and 3) the proposed buffers would be inadequate to prevent sight pollution inconsistent with the rural residential nature of the community and immediate neighbors of the property. Mr. Tate made a motion to approve the amended resolution, Mr. Rivenbark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

16. Discussion of Additional Code Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Greene explained that at the request of the Board, a resolution was presented to change the part-time Code Enforcement position being advertised to a full-time position but after some discussion, the item was postponed for further evaluation. There was discussion of the number and type of complaints, investigations, whether the code enforcement should be proactive versus reactive, abandoned vehicles, etc. Mr. Tate said it has been several months since the part-time position was advertised and asked why it hadn't been filled. Code Enforcement Officer Ralph Kays said after the subject of making it a full-time position came up, they didn't want to hire a part-time person until the Board made a decision whether to keep it part-time or make it full-time. A memo from Mr. Vafier to Mr. Greene was included in the agenda packet that read in part "At the present time the duties and responsibilities of the office of code enforcement as they exist are being maintained by the current staff of one full-time enforcement officer. The addition of one part-time, temporary employee as is being currently advertised will assist in this workload and allow for occasional opportunities to enforce street-addressing issues as dictated by current workload. At this time, the code enforcement program is reactive based on complaints received from citizens of the county. If the Board feels compelled to take a proactive approach toward identifying problems and enforcing the Zoning Ordinance on a broader scale, as well as providing resources to enforce street-addressing issues, the need for an additional full-time enforcement officer would be required." Mr. Greene said he recommends continuing with

complaint responsiveness and he feels like they can do it with the current full-time person and one part-time person. The Board gave a "nod of authorization" to leave the position as part-time. In response to question by Mr. Vafier, the Board suggested he strike "temporary" part-time and advertise it as "permanent" part-time.

17. ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Greene said that with respect to the Town of Burgaw's request for an easement on Chubb Road, he found out that the County acquired the property for \$5,000 but Tax Assessor Coby Heath says the reasonably appreciated value of the property today is \$7,500. Mr. Heath recommended that the simple approach is to sell the Town the site in fee simple for \$7,500 and the County would retain a utility easement for future use. Mr. Blanchard said he is concerned that the County may need to use the property in the future and said we should put in a clause that says if we need to use it in the future, we can. Mr. Thurman said it is up to the Town of Burgaw to write up a contract and bring back a formal resolution to the Board.

Mr. Greene said that with respect to Waste Industries, our current agreement with them expires in 2010 and that Waste Industries wants to make sure they are projecting their waste stream in the Sampson County Landfill adequately. He said if the County will agree to a 10-year contract extension, Waste Industries will offer the following: \$1.00 reduction per ton on all MSW from the Transfer Station at Hampstead; a rebate of \$2.00 per ton on all C&D and MSW waste after the CPI increase; they would absorb \$.50/ton administrative fee for the reporting of tonnage to the State of North Carolina; and the trash excise tax of \$2/ton will apply with the State's activation of the tax. Mr. Greene suggested extending the contract for seven years with these terms with the new contract as specified date of what CPI Waste Industries would be using. There was discussion of changing CPI from transportation to South Urban, water, sewer and garbage. Mr. Williams said Waste Industries is not doing Pender County any favors, that if it wasn't for the moratorium on landfills, we would be looking at other contracts. Mr. Brown asked that if we will be saving \$1 Million over the ten years, would anything change in the contract and Mr. Greene responded "no." Mr. Williams clarified that he has nothing against Waste Industries; he said they do a great job for the County and said "this is just business." Mr. Greene said we have no alternative.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Mr. Thurman said there is a case in which an uninsured citizen hit a Sheriff Deputy's car and the vehicle was repaired by our Claims Manager, Sedgwick Claims Management Services. He said Sedgwick is now suing the individual and wants to sue in Pender County's name. The Board gave a "nod of authorization" for Sedgwick to sue in the County's name.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Tate spoke about the need for Sills Creek to be cleaned out and asked if it is easier to dredge saltwater than rivers and creeks. Mr. Brown asked if funding is the only issue or if there are other factors why it can't be cleaned out. Mr. Thurman said where dredging is done in the coastal area, the existing spoil islands have already been dredged by the Corps of Engineers and people get permission from the Corps to put materials on the existing Corps islands. He said there are also EPA rules on where you can put materials that are dug out of rivers and creeks. Mr. Thurman gave an example of the case of the county cleaning out Burgaw Creek and was fined considerably for where they put the materials, but they negotiated it down. Mr. Tate said he has a meeting with the Corps later in the week.

Mr. Tate spoke about the Pender County Relay for Life and thanked Pender County organizers.

Mr. Tate said the Willard Walking Trail is still not complete and asked Ms. Turner when it can be used. Ms. Turner said the walking trail can be used now; the only thing that needs to be done is to get benches and they are working on that now. She said they asked Wal-Mart for a contribution but Wal-Mart declined. She will contact Pender Adult Services about some benches they may be able to donate.

Mr. Tate spoke about turn-arounds on I-40 being blocked and EMS vehicles not being able to use them. He suggested sending a letter from the Board asking that the right-of-ways not be blocked.

Mr. Rivenbark said that at the risk of saying anything to affect his election, he'll keep quiet.

Mr. Williams apologized for the comments he made to the Mayor. He said he tried to "take the high road" but he probably "took the low road."

Mr. Brown thanked Mr. Greene for his services as Interim County Manager to the County for the past three months.

Mr. Greene thanked the Board, Mr. Thurman and the employees.

Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Greene and said he tried to get him to stay and that Mr. Greene had made some tough decisions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A citizen, a Ms. Newkirk, said it is good the County is concerned about cleaning waterways but she wants to see some back yards cleaned up. She said that where Sampson County cleaned out creeks from 1996, the water now flows back and upward and the water doesn't have anywhere to go but into their back yards, and especially her mother's. She said she wants this Board to begin to do something about citizens in Upper Pender County at the Sampson County Line and let them know what they're doing. Mr. Williams said they need to ask the Corps what can be done. Ms. Newkirk said she had the Corps come out to her mother's before and they did a survey but nothing else has been done. She said she would have done it herself but the water has nowhere to go. Mr. Tate asked what community she lives in and said he will talk to the Corps about it when he meets with the. Ms. Newkirk said she lives in the Shiloh Community. Mr. Brown asked what did the Corps do and Ms. Newkirk said she doesn't remember but she has the papers at home.

Mr. Lewis Felton spoke his concern about a neighbor repairing homes illegally and about junk cars sitting in back yards and asked what the Board is going to do. He said he's going to keep quiet because he doesn't want the neighbor to retaliate.

Mr. Tate said there is a real need for code enforcement on the western side of the County and Mr. Williams said when we get additional help, there will be equitable service in the County.

Mr. Hiram Williams said he agrees with Mr. Lewis; that clean-up needs to be done on both sides of the County and we need to become proactive. He said with reference to drainage, the only way to positively get it done is to hire an engineering firm to do an analysis and let them present it to the Corps. Mr. Williams also spoke about the old Topsail High School site and said the building is in excellent condition and could be used for a community building; that it has perfect ingress and egress and is centrally located; that the soils at the site are excellent; and said he is in the real estate and construction business and offered his services free of charge to work with an engineer. With respect to stormwater, Mr. Williams said the Board should consider a legislative study.

Ms. Lois Dixon of Blueberry Road said they have drainage problems due to the stream underneath the road being blocked by gravel. She said Duplin Land Company blocked the stream and the drainage problems are causing more mosquito breeding. Ms. Dixon invited Mr. Tate and Mr. Brown to come out and look.

CLOSED SESSION

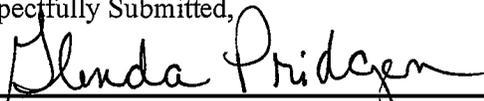
At 12:10 p.m. Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11: (1) to prevent disclosure of information that is privileged under state or federal law pursuant to; (3) to consult an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege; and (5) to establish, or instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price or other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract. The Board came out of closed session at 1:50 p.m.

Upon exiting closed session, Mr. Brown made a motion to hire Paul Parker as Interim County Manager until a permanent County Manager is hired, at which time Mr. Parker will become the Assistant County Manger, Mr. Tate seconded the motion and it was approved by a four-to-one vote, with Mr. Blanchard casting the dissenting vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board continued the meeting to May 9, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:



Melinda Knoerzer, Deputy Clerk to the Board