

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2009

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 1, 2009 at the Pender County Public Assembly Room, 805 South Walker Street, Burgaw, North Carolina.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Rick Benton, 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 Tate called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and thanked and welcomed all to the meeting.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Williams offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Blanchard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Mr. Tate asked Mr. Thurman if he could exercise Parliamentary Procedures to allow public information speakers to speak no more than the allotted times – which was 5 minutes each on the agenda. Mr. Thurman concurred with Mr. Tate's wishes.

1. Presentation of NCACC Outstanding County Award to the Pender County Board of Health: Neil Emory, NCACC Outreach Associate for Eastern North Carolina.

Health Director Dr. Jack Griffith gave an overview of the Dental Health Clinic saying he is proud of Dental staff and the Dental Program, and that the Dental Program reaches out to children that don't otherwise have dental care. Dr. Griffith thanked staff and members of the Health Board and asked Chairman Roberta Bost and other members of the Health Board to come forward. He thanked staff member Linda Walker, Director of the Outreach Program, and said she is an expert grant writer. Dr. Griffith said Dr. the doctors and staff at the Dental Health Clinic do an excellent job, and Dr. Vasamsetti does an excellent job with the Mobile Clinic. There was some discussion about Medicaid – if patients have Medicaid, they can use it to pay for dental care. Dr. Vasamsetti came forward and said he thanks the NCACC for recognizing them; thanked everyone who helped them obtain the Pediatric Mobile Clinic; thanked Dr. Griffith and the Board of Health for their support in helping the clinic to provide quality dental care to low income kids, and thanked everyone in general for their support.

Mr. Emory said that: the award information is shared between counties; the award was given to Pender County based on the area of human services; out of thirty entries, Pender County is one of seven that was chosen for this award; and it is truly an honor for him to present the award to Pender County. Mr. Emory read the award and presented it to Chairman Tate; he presented a certificate to Dr. Griffith, who in turn passed it around to his Board members. Mr. Williams noted that Mr. Tate also serves on the Board of Health. Mr. Tate said Dr. Griffith gave everyone else praise, but it was under Dr. Griffith's leadership that Pender County received the award.

2. Equine Rescue and Animal Welfare in Pender County with Animal Control; & North Carolina State Law and Animal Cruelty and Neglect: Lisa Hartman.

Ms. Lisa Hartman of 5200 McGill Rd., Anderson, SC, and also an Animal Cruelty Investigator, spoke on behalf of animals whom she said "do not have a voice." She said that: she was a Certified Animal Cruelty Investigator from 2004-2008, appointed by Columbus County; she is also speaking on behalf of Deputy Michael Lewis of the Sheriff Department, who was allegedly demoted for not following protocol when he helped save neglected horses; there is an oath to uphold County Ordinances, as well as the State of North Carolina statute – she read the statute. Ms. Hartman said horse owners have a responsibility to see to the maintenance and nutrition of their horses. She said she had been in touch with Animal Control and the Sheriff and met with Dr. Griffith, but Dr. Griffith basically told her it was none of her business. She said she wants a formal investigation into Animal Control. She asked what about Animal Control Supervisor Stephen Throneburg's qualifications and if he is "fit to head up" Animal Control.

3. Rescue of Dogs that were Located in Rocky Point, NC: Peter MacQueen, III, President, The Humane Society of Eastern North Carolina.

Mr. MacQueen distributed photos of dogs that were involved in an earlier animal abuse case. He said that: he had been involved with animal issues in Pender County for several years with mostly dogs, the most recent being the case of the dogs in Rocky Point being housed in substandard conditions; in that instance, an Animal Control Officer attempted to interfere with their investigation until Sgt. Michael Lewis (the same deputy as above) stepped in and helped get animals out of the situation; Animal Control, the Sheriff Department and various agencies in the County have problems that go way back; animal abuse is not unlike human abuse; there are serious problems in Pender County between Law Enforcement and Animal Control and something needs to be done to bring them together. He noted the condition of the dogs in this situation. Mr. Tate asked if, of all the entities he mentioned, had he attempted to meet with any of them privately. Mr. MacQueen said he had spoken with two Animal Control staff personnel, but no Supervisor. He said he hadn't spoken with the Sheriff, but he will gladly do so. Mr. MacQueen said County Government and Animal Control need to have someone act as a liaison to set up a committee to help with Animal Control. Mr. Blanchard said he "gets nervous" when folks from outside Pender County come in and tell us what we are doing wrong.

4. Information Update Regarding US 17 Corridor Feasibility Studies: Al Freimark.

Mr. Freimark said he represents the Greater Hampstead Homeowners Association. In addition to the information Mr. Freimark presented in the agenda packet, he distributed an Executive Summary to the Board and said it includes a chronology of fifteen years or longer where we have asked DOT for funds for a bypass for the Hampstead Area; the summary is on file in the agenda packet. Mr. Freimark indicated that the New Bern Bypass is progressing and urged the Board to write another resolution to DOT. He said DOT has \$17 billion in funds for highway projects and one-half of it has been identified. He said N.C. DOT wants to consider the 6-laning of Hwy 17 in response to National Environmental Policy Act request for alternatives to Hampstead Bypass. Mr. Freimark said the bottom line is DOT needs to: 1) choose a route; 2) acquire the land; and 3) build a bypass. Mr. Williams said he doesn't see any alternative to building a bypass. He said you don't have to be a "rocket scientist" to know we need a bypass. He spoke about the positives concerning the bypass being built around Little Washington. Mr. Rivenbark said we need to send another resolution to DOT today reiterating the others. Mr. Tate said we not only need to send a resolution, we need to go in person and hand-deliver it. Mr. Williams suggested we have a resolution to vote on at the next meeting. Mr. Freimark said he is not trying to be adversarial with DOT, he is only trying to get the Board of Commissioners' attention so they can get DOT's attention. Mr. Tate commended Mr. Freimark for extensive work he has done with the Board of Commissioners on DOT issues. Mr. Williams asked if the land acquisition is slated for early 2013 and Mr. Benton responded affirmatively.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Tate presented the nine 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. Williams seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

5. Approval of Minutes for the Budget Work Session, Regular Session and Closed Session Meetings of May 18, 2009.
6. Resolution Approving Tax Releases and Refunds.
7. Resolution Approving Annual Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for N.E. Cape Fear River Monitoring Equipment Maintenance.
8. Resolution of the Pender County Board of Commissioners Supporting an Alternative Method of Recognition for Veterans Status to Merchant Marine Seamen of WW II.
9. Resolution Appointing Tax Collector: Ms. Barbara Murray, and Deputy Tax Collectors: Ms. Tereca Crenshaw and Ms. Sarah Pridgen.
10. Resolution Authorizing a Purchase Order to Playtime Installers for Installation of Playground Equipment and Wood Fibers for Pender Memorial Park Expansion: \$8,000.
11. Resolution for Purchase Order to Baker Roofing to Replace Roofs Located at Probation & Parole and the York House: \$24,920.
12. Resolution Authorizing Purchase Orders to Frank R. Morton Construction in the Amount of \$4,000 for Land Clearing and to Garvey Flooring, Inc., in the amount of \$8,481.30 for Classroom Tile Flooring at Topsail Elementary School.
13. Resolution Authorizing Purchase Orders to Garvey Flooring, Inc., in the Amount of \$8,481.30 for Classroom Tile Flooring, and to Farrior's Flooring and Interiors in the Amount of \$9,592.27 for New Carpeting in the Auditorium, and Administrative Offices at Penderlea School.

RESOLUTIONS

14. **Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Rural Health Care Initiative Grant in Partnership with PORT Human Services.**

Mr. Benton explained that: the NC Rural Economic Development Center has created a Rural Health Care Initiative from economic development funding through the General Assembly; the initiative is designed to spur economic activity and job creation by assisting in the construction and expansion of health care facilities in rural areas and in small towns; PORT Human Services has requested a partnership with Pender County in submitting a grant application for funding; PORT Human Services proposes to construct a new facility in Burgaw that will serve youth with mental health and substance abuse needs; they have facilities in 16 counties in eastern North Carolina, employ approximately 250 persons and also have many local professional and service contracts; the application deadline is June 1; the estimated facility investment is \$1,003,385; the grant request is \$144,000, or \$12,000 each per twelve jobs to be created; the Pender County match is \$4,320, which is expected to be covered through in-kind expenses; the project is supported by Foster Norman, Director of Southeastern Center for Mental Health (SEMHC) ; and SEMHC has contracted with PORT Human Services for a total of \$492,442 for construction and start-up of the project. Mr. Benton introduced Mr. Tom Savidge, CEO of PORT Human Services, who was present to answer any questions. Mr. Tate asked where their nearest facility to Pender County and Mr. Savidge said they have facilities in Greenville in Pitt County and Aberdeen in Moore County. Mr. Blanchard asked if there would be any commitment on the County's part after the grant runs out and Mr. Benton said "no, not to his knowledge." He said the County is committed to a local match, hopefully in in-land expenses, and said this grant is really a "loan" secured by performance requirements. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Rivenbark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

15. Resolution Approving and Consenting to the Town of Wallace Acquiring Land by Eminent Domain for the Wallace Airport.

Town Attorney Richard Burrows explained that: the Town of Wallace enlarged the length of the runway at the airport and is in the process of installing updated navigational/landing equipment known as the Precision Approach Pilot Indication System (PAPI); as a result of lengthening the runway and installation of the PAPI System, Federal Aeronautics Administration (FAA) regulations require them to maintain clearances of all obstructions within the designated glide slope pattern, because such obstructions constitute a potential danger to airplanes utilizing the Airport and PAPI System; a portion of the land owned by a North Carolina limited liability company is located within the PAPI glide slope pattern; the portion which is located within the PAPI glide slope pattern already contains a number of trees that have grown to a height that interferes with the glide slope pattern; and the Town of Wallace determined that it is in their best interest to acquire title to the entire portion located within the glide slope pattern, rather than file multiple condemnation actions to compel the owner to cut, top or remove offending trees as they grow into the glide slope pattern; the Town has to have an M&A survey of the land, have it appraised, have it surveyed again and then make an offer to the owner; time is critical; and there is potential liability – there had already been one crash but luckily, no one was hurt and it was unrelated to this issue. Mr. Blanchard said he understood that the land is owned by an LLC and asked if the Town is negotiating with them. Mr. Burrows said initially, they were negotiating with the owner to remove the trees. He said this resolution is to clear the way for the Town to execute eminent domain if necessary, and does not mean they are going to proceed with eminent domain right away. Mr. Blanchard said one of our Commissioners in January told us an entire different story than Mr. Burrows is telling. Mr. Brown said Mr. Blanchard is referring to him because he did speak directly with the owners. He said the owners at first told him they had been offered a monetary amount for an easement right only, and said he was cautious before because of what the owners told him. Mr. Burrows said he has been in contact with other attorneys, including the owners' attorney. Mr. Tate clarified that the Town needs to get an appraisal, review the appraisal and then make an offer. Mr. Burrows said "yes, it is an ongoing process." Mr. Brown said the owners contacted him a couple of weeks ago and told him they didn't want the Pender County Board of Commissioners to stand in the Town's way of eminent domain. Mr. Blanchard made a motion to approve the resolution that based upon the premises of the agreement and for good cause shown, the Board does hereby approve and consent to the Town of Wallace acquiring a portion of the land listed in the agreement, owned by CNX5 Trees, LLC, by eminent domain, should the Town be unable to negotiate mutually agreeable terms of sale with the owner. Mr. Rivenbark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

16. Discussion and Possible Vote on Mr. Brown's Fitness to Continue Serving on the Board.

Mr. Blanchard said he would first like to allow anyone in the audience to speak who wants to speak on this matter. (No one spoke.) Mr. Brown said he wants to know what this is all about because he doesn't know what it is he has done. Mr. Blanchard asked Mr. Thurman if he recalled Mr. Brown making a motion to censure him and the outcome of the motion. Mr. Thurman said to his recollection, nothing was done and that the motion was withdrawn by Mr. Brown. Mr. Thurman said he had talked with someone from the School of Government and was told the Board does not have the authority to remove a Board member. Mr. Blanchard asked Mr. Thurman if he remembered an employee saying he was never threatened by him. Mr. Brown said the motion to censure had nothing to do with a supposed threat by Mr. Blanchard to then Interim County Manager Paul Parker, but had to do with Mr. Blanchard giving a letter to County Manager Rick Benton to have Mr. Parker read, an act Mr. Blanchard admitted to doing. The letter read by Mr. Parker stated Mr. Blanchard had never threatened him. Mr. Blanchard told Mr. Brown to not evade the issue and to admit he made up the story. Mr. Blanchard said his character had been defamed by Mr. Brown telling lies on him. Mr. Brown said Mr. Blanchard is the one that lied on him and continues to harass him. Mr. Steve Donatone, a Hampstead resident, said this is the third or fourth time Mr. Blanchard has wasted valuable time with this. He said Mr. Blanchard insists on revisiting this issue, wasting taxpayers' time and money, that Mr. Blanchard has no unity with the other Commissioners and perhaps Mr. Blanchard should resign. Mr. Tate said after the positive results of the State of the County meeting, he wants the Board to move forward with unity and he thinks enough has been said on this issue. He said the Board should get on

with County business and said he thinks Mr. Blanchard and Mr. Brown are ready to move forward. Mr. Blanchard said "that is Mr. Brown's call." Mr. Brown said he believes in commitments being honored and said he is getting a little tired of this whole ordeal. He said he is ready to move on with positive County issues. Mr. Williams agreed with Mr. Tate that it is time to move on and said he is glad to hear we are moving on. Mr. Williams thanked Mr. Tate for his tireless efforts to resolve this matter. No formal action was taken.

17. Resolution Approving Restrictive Covenants for Pender Commerce Park.

Mr. Benton explained that: the Board of Commissioners has worked diligently over the past year or two to develop this industrial park on US 421; the park meets all the requirements to be "certified" by the NC Department of Commerce, with the exception of having "public" water and sewer, but the Board is working diligently to satisfy these two criteria; the park is now "shovel ready" to market for development to industrial clients; the Restrictive Covenants are recommended to establish and implement guidelines and criteria for site development, land use, architectural design, landscape design, signage, lighting, and so forth to ensure the properties develop in a quality, compatible and acceptable manner; the covenants have been reviewed by the County Attorney, Wilmington Industrial Development, McKim & Creed (the engineering design firm), an attorney with expertise in land development, and the County Planning Department; covenants conform to the County's zoning and land use requirements; and the covenants can be modified in the future if necessary. Mr. Brown asked if the County Attorney had had a chance to look review the covenants and Mr. Thurman responded "yes," and said Rick Biberstein, who has expertise in land development had also reviewed. Mr. Blanchard made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

ROCKY POINT/TOPSAIL WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

18. Resolution Approving Purchase Order to HD Supply Waterworks, LTD for Purchase of Water Meters for Phase V: \$56,380.01.

Utilities Director Michael Mack explained that: this will purchase 500 water meters at \$105.63 plus tax each; funds are budgeted for this purchase as part of the Phase V construction project; and this purchase is for 400 customers that are currently signed up and the Department is trying to get online. Mr. Blanchard made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Rivenbark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

19. ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Benton noted Mr. Tim McCain of Assessment Solutions, Inc. had a conflict and was unable to attend the meeting to give the progress report on the 2011 Property Revaluation.

Mr. Benton said Utilities Director Michael Mack is present to give a progress report on the Water Treatment Plant Project. Mr. Mack delivered a Power Point presentation which included: Site Layout; Site Layout Details; Schedule – which included Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Engineering Report, Final Design and Permitting; Bid Process; Cost Estimates – which included 2 MGD at \$14.75 per gallon; Financing – which included additional USDA-RD funds and possible Stimulus money; and Rocky Point/Topsail Water & Sewer District Customer Summary. Mr. Williams asked if according to the report, three and a half years from now a residential water bill is only anticipated to increase by approximately \$7.00 per month and Mr. Mack responded affirmatively. Mr. Brown asked, for the benefit of the audience, when is the projected date to pump water and Mr. Mack said early 2012.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Mr. Thurman said he has an item for Closed Session.

Mr. Thurman said it was brought to his attention the possibility of moving the second June meeting to June 22nd, since the first meeting (today's meeting) is on the first Monday, and also it would allow more time if

there are any budget issues that might come up. After some discussion, Mr. Williams made a motion to move the June 15, 2009 regular Board meeting to June 22, 2009, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Thurman said someone also reminded him that due to so many extra meetings (budget work sessions, etc.) during the past few months, and the fact that the NACo Annual Conference is held in July, the Board sometimes in the past only held one meeting in July. Mr. Williams added the fact that it will also be the 4th of July and many people will be taking vacation. Mr. Williams made a motion to cancel the July 6 meeting, having only one meeting for July which would be July 20, 2009, beginning at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Williams said he received an e-mail from State Representative Carolyn H. Justice concerning Subcommittee Reports they received, which includes Education as a subcommittee. He spoke about the State Budget and how their budget cuts will impact counties and schools. He said the State will not likely adopt its budget until later and it is not final yet how cuts will affect funding counties and schools, but it is a "scary task" for counties trying to balance their budgets. He added that after all these years, "we never let the ship sink yet." Mr. Rivenbark agreed with Mr. Williams; he said we don't know what the proposed budget will be.

Mr. Blanchard noted Representative Justice had introduced a bill that would exempt certain electrical lighting devices and fixtures and water heater replacement in residences from building permitting requirements. Mr. Blanchard said he agrees with Ms. Justice that people shouldn't have to get permits just to make minor repairs and replace water heaters.

Mr. Brown said that: he is sorry he couldn't attend the "State of the County" meeting; he is very proud of Mr. Tate for putting it together; he thinks it is great the Chairman wanted to get out and tell folks about good things for the County; and he hopes we will do this every year.

Mr. Tate said thanked his fellow Board members for their support of the "State of the County" address. He said "anything that is accomplished is accomplished by the Board as a whole, not just one Commissioner"; he appreciates all Board members' support and the "State of the County" meeting was a success because of all Board members' leadership; thanked the County Manager for all his help with the event, thanked Ms. Pridgen, Administrative Assistant Melinda Knoerzer and Administrative Assistant Pat Simmons for their assistance; and thanked Department Heads for their attendance.

Mr. Rivenbark thanked Mr. Davenport for moving forward on the project to get abandoned trailers removed from the County. He also asked if staff had contacted the contractor concerning the Courthouse lawn and Mr. Benton responded affirmatively. Mr. Rivenbark asked about cutting the azaleas back and fertilization and Mr. Benton said we want to wait until after the Blueberry Festival to cut the azaleas back.

Mr. Tate said the County received approval for \$118,000 in funding from the State for Pender County Schools for Highway 17 access improvements. He thanked Mr. Benton for traveling to Raleigh with Schools Superintendent Allison Sholar to request assistance with funding. He said they are planning a meeting locally sometime in the near future.

Mr. Rivenbark said he doesn't usually speak against anyone or any group, but as a member of the State and National Commissioner Associations, he has been asked to go to Washington, DC on June 10th to speak before Congressman McIntyre's Economic Development and Agricultural Committees. He added that he is going at his own expense.

Mr. Williams asked Mr. Thurman if the County Manager or the Board of Commissioners have any control over Sheriff's Department personnel and Mr. Thurman said the Board of Commissioners, the County

Manager, or the County Attorney have absolutely no authority over Sheriff's Department personnel. He said the Sheriff is an elected official and has complete authority over his personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rev. Ray Mendenhall presented a proclamation to the Board on behalf of Pender Adult Services, requesting approval of the Month of June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month. Rev. Mendenhall apologized that the proclamation was not brought in the proper way, and said he assumed it was on the Board's agenda, but it wasn't. He said the Board has graciously approved the proclamation in the past. Per approval of the Board at a prior meeting that any additional item placed on the agenda would require a unanimous by the Board, Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to place this item on the agenda. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved (the proclamation was added as Item Number 13a. on the agenda). Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to approve the Proclamation proclaiming the Month of June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month, Mr. Blanchard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:28 p.m., Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11: (3) to consult an attorney employed or retained by the public body in accordance in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege; and (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. The Closed Session will not include discussion of the appointment of a member of the public body, or a vacancy on the public body, and any final action on appointment, discharge or removal by the public body will be made in open session. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved going into Closed Session.

At 5:55 p.m., Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to come out of Closed Session. Upon exiting the Closed Session, Mr. Tate read the following statement: "The Board has concurred to allow the County Manager to work with the Sheriff to prepare a public statement regarding the issues involving the Sheriff Department's response to the recent equine abuse issue that has been reported."

Mr. Tate apologized to members of the press who attended the State of the County Meeting, for failing to recognize them earlier, and also thanked Superintendent Sholar and her staff for attending.

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

20. Public Hearing on Pender County Fiscal Year 2009-10 Submitted Budget.

The Budget Public Hearing opened at 6:00 p.m. and closed at 6:57 p.m. Mr. Benton noted that: the Board had just changed the June 15th meeting to June 22nd, so that is when the budget is expected to be approved; as mentioned earlier by Mr. Williams, the State hasn't approved their budget, but we have to adopt ours by June 30th; we can make amendments later if we have to; and the Board has said they don't want to change the tax rate, and once the budget is adopted, the tax rate cannot be changed. Mr. Benton reviewed the FY 09/10 Budget Recommendation Highlights, a copy of which is with the permanent records in the County Manager's Office. Mr. Benton highlighted that the 23 positions previously listed as unfunded, will now actually be more than 23.

Sheriff Carson Smith spoke and explained that: currently he has six positions that are frozen-no one will actually lose their job but these positions are scheduled to not be funded this year; he understands the reason the positions are frozen, but he really has a need for them; the positions include two Patrol Deputies, 2 Jail Officers, one School Resource Officer (SRO), and one Civil/Court Officer; requested the Board to consider partially funding positions – maybe three; he is requesting the Board to reconsider the Vehicle Replacement Fund; he had requested funding for fourteen replacement vehicles, but it is recommended he not get any; seven of his current vehicles are now over 150,000 miles and three over 185,000; and he understands Vehicle Replacement is a fund that is very easy to take money from, but he was just getting

caught up with replacing vehicles and now he is going to fall behind. Mr. Williams said he is more concerned about bodies than vehicles and told Mr. Smith to "pick his poison." Mr. Blanchard asked how many vehicles were purchased for the Sheriff's Department last year and Finance Director David McCole responded "twelve." Mr. Smith said they purchased Highway Patrol cars last year; he said additional SRO's had been added last year and vehicles had to be purchased for them. Sheriff Smith discussed the conditions and prices of Highway Patrol cars now compared to last year.

Mr. Tate said he had visited some departments while he was on break and the Sheriff's Department was one of them. He said he was moved by the number of calls the Sheriff's Office receives in one day and said he gives a strong recommendation to let the Sheriff work with the Manager to try to fill some positions and replace some vehicles. Mr. Tate said there is some liability involved because a lot of the Sheriff personnel have to work a lot of overtime, even when they are overly tired. He also said the County receives a Jail Report and if we are not giving the Department what it needs, it will reflect on the report. Mr. Tate said if the report reflects negatively, it is not because of anything the Sheriff is not doing. Sheriff Smith said he is more concerned about how this will affect next year's budget if he doesn't receive some additional personnel and vehicles. It was the consensus of the Board to have Mr. Benton and the Sheriff meet to try to resolve some of the issues and let the Board know the results.

Mr. Hiram Williams of Hampstead said that; from a health standpoint, there is nothing more important for the County than sanitary water and sewer; he is concerned with water rates and impact fees going up; the Board should give consideration to get more people to hook up to water, which would be good for the building industry and the economy; and that there are people right now that can't afford to hook up to water. Mr. Brown said he hears complaints all the time about people that can't afford to hook up to water and noted there are lots of bad private wells in his district in the Rocky Point area, as well as Mr. Tate's district in the Penderlea area. Mr. Tate said Mr. Williams made a good point - he said he heard from a lady today who wants county water and can't afford to hook up.

Attorney Kent Harrell, spoke on behalf of the Burgaw Dixie Youth Program with concerns about Pender Memorial Park in Burgaw. He explained that: right now there are approximately 513 children that play baseball and softball on the fields there; the restroom facility there is 50 to 60 years old and there are only two stalls in each bathroom, with all these kids, their parents, grandparents and others using them; he is asking the Board to consider funding to help with a restroom/concession stand facility for the new part of the park; the new part of the park can be designed to provide a facility for the whole park; as it is now, children would have to walk quite a distance from the fields in the new part of the park to the current restroom; the fields are not only used for baseball and softball, but for soccer and other games as well; and this has been talked about for a long time, has been in the works for a long time; and it is time to do something about it. Mr. Blanchard said he is horrified about using restroom facilities that are that old and said they should let the County Manager evaluate the situation. Mr. Harrell said when they have problems the County comes out and make repairs for the short-term. Mr. Brown asked if with the new renovations would there be an increase of children playing at the park and Mr. Harrell responded affirmatively. Mr. Harrell explained that: it will cost approximately \$135,000, but they are not asking the County to pay the whole amount; Dixie Youth is paying most of it by having fund raisers, etc.; when the numbers originally came in Dixie Youth was supposed to pay 1/3, the County 1/3 and Rotary 1/3, but it didn't work out; and Dixie Youth is committed to doing the demolition themselves. Mr. Williams said he hopes the equipment meets the health Department's requirements; he said they had a hard time getting everything to pass when they were working on the Hampstead Kiwanis Park. Mr. Harrell said they are requesting approximately \$25,000 in funding and said the funds are a non-recurring expense. Mr. Brown noted his children used to play ball at the park and said Dee Turner had made a lot of improvements with the little money she had. Mr. Harrell noted the picnic shelter which had been originally included in the plans is not too important right now, they are more concerned with restroom facilities. Mr. Williams said we would have to pull these funds out of Fund Balance. It was the consensus of the Board that this is a good return on investment. Mr. Brown recognized Engineer Mark Walton for using his own time to work on this project. Mr. Parker and

Ms. Turner discussed the funds left in the CIP for Parks and Recreation. Mr. Parker said the County has recently starting setting aside \$50,000 per year for Parks and Recreation. He said of the \$46,000 in that budget now, about one-half has already been designated for dugouts, mowers, etc. Ms. Turner said the funds still need to be encumbered for projects already on the books. It was the general consensus of the Board to give Mr. Benton authority to designate monies out of Fund Balance to Pender Memorial Park to make the project budget work.

Mr. Steve DeBiasi spoke on behalf of the Carousel Center. He explained that: the Center had requested \$10,000 as received last year, but understands they are recommended to receive \$5,000 this year; The Carousel Center exists to provide services to abused children, 90% of which are sexual; they accept referrals from Departments of Social Services, law enforcement agencies, hospital emergency departments and private physicians; and they currently serve 284 children in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover, Onslow, Pender and Robeson Counties, and 32 of them are Pender County children. Mr. Williams said his mother is a Guardian Ad Litem and she had briefed him on this. He said we should at least keep them funded where they are now. Mr. Tate said he is very moved by the Carousel Center's efforts. It was the consensus of the Board to add \$5,000 to the Carousel Centers' appropriation.

Mr. Williams made comments regarding the School Board and said he appreciates the way they approached the budget situation.

Mr. Tate said if you look around at other counties, Pender is not in the situation some of them are taking towards their Schools.

Mr. Brown said he had been receiving e-mails from folks who think the County has control over the lottery proceeds, and confirmed that is not the case.

ADJOURNMENT

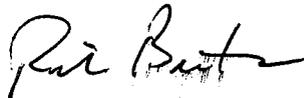
There being no further business, Mr. Blanchard made a motion to adjourn the June 1, 2009 meeting and the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:



Rick Benton, Clerk to the Board