

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on October 5, 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 10:00 a.m. and thanked and welcomed all to the meeting.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Blanchard offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONAL ITEM: PENDER ADULT SERVICES

Mr. Tate noted Pender Adult Services had received notice late last Thursday that Cape Fear Community College is cutting three of the classes they offer for Senior Citizens and PAS is asking for help from the County. Mr. Blanchard made a motion to waive the prior notification rule and allow this item to be placed on the Agenda as a resolution. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The item was discussed after Item #10.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

1. **Briefing on Upcoming Silent Auction Fund Raiser for the Meals on Wheels Program: Wes Davis, Executive Director, Pender Adult Services.**

Mr. Davis explained: each year Pender Adult Services conducts a silent auction to supplement the Meals on Wheels Program run by their agency; 100% of the money raised at the auction goes to the program; the auction is the major fund raiser of the year; they hold fundraisers because funds from the state are limited; and the Meals on Wheels Program provides meals for home bound citizens 60 years of age and over. Mr. Davis thanked the Board for the funds they provide to Pender Adult Services.

2. **Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness: Sponsored by North Carolina Social Services Association (NCSSA): Dara Burleson, Pender County DSS.**

Ms. Burleson explained: the NCSSA is a non-profit agency; October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month; NCSSA is holding a series of activities to heighten awareness of these problems and would like to have all County departments join in this effort by donating \$2 to wear a pink bracelet on October 15th for Breast Cancer Awareness and/or a

purple one on October 22nd for Domestic Violence Awareness; the money donated to Breast Cancer Awareness goes to the Health Department for low income people; and the money raised for Domestic Violence goes to Safe Haven, who works in collaboration with the Sheriff Department.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

3. Approval of Minutes for the Regular & Closed Session Meeting of October 5, 2009.
4. Resolution Approving Tax Releases and Refunds.
5. Resolution Authorizing a Budget Ordinance Amendment and Execution of Standard Grant Award Contract and Conditions: \$2,994 Reduction in Criminal Justice Partnership Program Funding.

RESOLUTIONS

6. **Resolution Authorizing Budget Amendment to Appropriate \$2,668 in Local Funds to Receive \$24,012 in Additional Congregate and Meals on Wheels Programs.**

Mr. Davis explained that the additional funds are a part of the Stimulus Act and Pender Adult Services was not aware of these funds at the time of the original budget. Mr. Tate said that amount is a great return on investment of the local match. Mr. Blanchard made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Rivenbark seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

7. **Resolution to Approve a Purchase Order for Health Department Mobile Dental Digital Imaging for Fiscal Year 2009-2010: \$30,000.**

Health Director Dr. Jack Griffith explained that this system is designed to automatically shorten exposure time, and said the item is included in the FY 09-10 budget. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Brown seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

8. **Resolution Authorizing a Budget Ordinance to Approve an Increase in Health Department Revenues and Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2009-2010: H1N1 Vaccine: \$60,000.**

Dr. Griffith explained: the State gave the Health Department the \$60,000 and it has to be used for items approved by the State; they will receive more than 5,000 doses of H1N1 flu vaccine to be used primarily in schools; and he is requesting the Board to approve \$7,000 to purchase a refrigerator to store the vaccine in. Mr. Benton asked if Dr. Griffith is requesting approval of an additional \$7,000 and Dr. Griffith said "no, the \$7,000 will come out of the \$60,000." Mr. Blanchard asked if they will have use for the refrigerator after the H1N1 vaccine is over and Dr. Griffith responded affirmatively. Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Blanchard seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

9. **Resolution Authorizing Transition of Child Support Enforcement to the Department of Social Services.**

Social Services Director Dr. Reta Shiver explained the NC General Assembly has directed each State operated Child Support Enforcement Office to be administered by county government effective July 1, 2010. Dr. Shiver's presentation included: what the Child Support Program is designed to do; four methods of administration; what surrounding counties are doing; comparison charts of Pender and New Hanover Counties-the number of cases and the amounts collected; administrative costs; areas of consideration if DSS administers the program; points to consider in

decision making; and recommendations-she noted both sides prefer the program to be operated under DSS rather than contracting it out. Dr. Shiver said if the program is transferred to DSS, it will have to be added to the County's current Pay Plan. She said the current Child Support Office ranks number eleven in efficiency in the state and said they have excellent staff. Mr. Blanchard asked if the current employees of Child Support are state employees and Dr. Shiver responded "yes." Mr. Blanchard noted they will be giving up their state positions for county positions and said there would have to be salary adjustments. Mr. Brown asked if the current number of staff over there now is six and Dr. Shiver responded "yes." Mr. Tate asked Mr. Benton for his comments and Mr. Benton said he concurs with Dr. Shiver that the program should be transferred to DSS. He added that over time, the expenses of running the program will be reduced. Mr. Blanchard asked how you determine efficiency and Dr. Shiver said by the collections rate. Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

10. Resolution Approving Budget Amendment to Provide Funding for Board Agenda Publication.

Mr. Brown asked to have this item pulled from the agenda and to revisit it at a later date. Mr. Blanchard said he is directing the County Manager to not spend any more money on advertising the agenda. Mr. Benton said there is currently money in the advertising fund that has not been encumbered. Mr. Blanchard asked Mr. Thurman about the legality of spending \$9,000 for "nine" people or special interest groups. Mr. Thurman said he doesn't know where the "nine" people is coming from but he will check with the School of Government on the legality of spending county funds to advertise the agenda. He said as with other county services, some people use them and some don't. Mr. Blanchard said he wants Mr. Thurman to check with the School of Government to see if taxpayers' money can be spent on advertising. Mr. Brown said he doesn't understand what the problem is to advertise the agendas if there is money already in the advertising fund. There was no action taken on the item.

10a. Approval of Funding of One of Three Classes at Pender Adult Services Which Were Previously Funded by Cape Fear Community College.

Mr. Davis explained that Cape Fear Community College is cutting three classes that they offer at Pender Adult Services for senior citizens. Mr. Tate explained that Mr. Benton and Mr. Davis had discussed the possibility that the County may could fund one class. There was discussion of which class the County would fund. Mr. Davis urged the Board to consider age in making a decision because in some of the classes, the older you are the less you pay. Mr. Tate suggested Mr. Benton could go to the classes and let them choose which class to fund. Mr. Davis said you might alienate some people if you choose one class over the other because not all are in the same class. Mr. Williams asked what the classes are and Mr. Davis responded "Painting, Crafts and Crocheting. After more discussion of which class to fund, Mr. Blanchard made a motion for Mr. Benton and Mr. Davis to get together and discuss the issue and then meet with the students. Mr. Rivenbark seconded the motion and it was approved by a 4-1 vote, with Mr. Williams voting against it.

11. ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Benton had no additional items.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Mr. Thurman said the state is imposing a smoking ban effective January 1, 2010 and will look for counties to enforce it; the ban will apply to government property and some other public areas; and he will keep the Board updated on it.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Williams said allowing the public to speak before an item is voted on is a good idea and will make the meetings friendlier; he wants to hold a meeting in Scotts Hill to discuss fire protection and have the Utilities Department give an update on water to that area; he suggests that there may be opportunities for financial resources from offshore drilling and wind power initiatives (if ever approved) to fund beach nourishment because he feels that the state and federal governments are going to get out of that business; he suggested perhaps the Shoreline Protection Committee may could explore that opportunity.

Mr. Blanchard said beach nourishment is the "life blood" of the United States and said it is getting harder and harder to get funding for it, even though we can show it generates funds in excess of costs.

Mr. Rivenbark said the Manager had asked him to bring dates of the 2010 NCACC and NACo conferences and he had given the information to the secretary.

Mr. Tate thanked all for their patience with him over the last several months, especially over the last several weeks. He thanked Mr. Brown for presiding over meetings, thanked Mr. Benton for meeting him at his home to discuss county business and thanked all for their prayers, thoughts, visits, calls, e-mails and anything else during his mother's recent illness and death.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Richard Catley of Hampstead spoke about the negative effects the proposed Titan Cement Plant coming to New Hanover County would have on Pender County. He said it would destroy the aquifer and said more than 50% of everything coming out of the plant will fall on Pender County. Mr. Catley said there will be a public comment meeting on October 20th at Cape Fear Community College's North Campus, and urged people to go and offer their opinions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Blanchard made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Glenda Pridgen

Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:

Rick Benton

Rick Benton, Clerk to the Board
