

## MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2011

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, March 21, 2011 at the Public Assembly Room, 805 S. Walker St., Burgaw, NC 28425.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman George Brown, presiding; Vice Chairman Jimmy Tate; and Commissioners F.D. Rivenbark, Chester Ward 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 Brown called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and thanked and welcomed all to the meeting.

### INVOCATION

Commissioner Rivenbark offered the Invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Tate led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### RESOLUTION

#### 11. **Resolution Recognizing the Contributions of Reverend Aaron Johnson.**

It was requested that this item be moved up on the agenda to accommodate Reverend Johnson. Mr. Tate noted he was first approached by Ms. Nellie Fields of the Willard Community concerning this matter. Mr. Tate gave a history/background of Reverend Johnson, noting he worked tirelessly to get a prison system in Pender County. Mr. Tate read the certificate, which was presented to him by the entire Board of Commissioners. The certificate listed Reverend Johnson's many contributions, starting with his beginning as a sharecropper's son in rural North Carolina in the Willard Community. Mr. Tate made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Reverend Johnson thanked the Board for recognizing him and made remarks about his work trying to provide jobs in Pender County during the Depression. He noted he attended school at the former C.F. Pope High School in Burgaw.

### PUBLIC INFORMATION

#### 1. **Amber Parker, Human Resources Director: Presentation of The Old North State Award to Mrs. Jan Dawson.**

Ms. Parker explained: Mrs. Dawson was employed with Pender County from 1985 until 2011 and she served Pender County faithfully for 25 years; certificates are issued by the Office of the Governor to recognize and honor individuals for their contributions and for making a significant impact towards creating a better North Carolina; and Governor Perdue has awarded Mrs. Dawson with The Old North State Award for dedication and service beyond expectation and excellence to the Great State of North Carolina. Mr. Brown made remarks about Mrs. Dawson's service to the County, and read and presented the award to her. Ms. Dawson said this experience has humbled her, thanked everyone for this recognition, and made other remarks. Mr. Williams and IT Director Erik Harvey made remarks about Mrs. Dawson's service to the County. Mr. Brown thanked Ms. Parker for making this presentation possible.

2. **Mr. Ross Harrell: Presentation Regarding the Pender County Spring Festival.**

Mrs. Rochelle Whiteside and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pollock were present to represent the Spring Festival Committee. Ms. Whiteside explained: this is the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of the Spring Festival; they don't charge the vendors; everyone who participates is either from Pender County or works for the County; the Spring Festival is a fundraiser for different groups and is like a homecoming for the community; and in earlier years, the Board helped to sponsor the Spring Festival. Ms. Pollock said she is asking the Board of Commissioners to embrace supporting this function; the Committee always aims for 100 exhibitors but last year they had 109; it is not a state festival; it is not just for Burgaw, it is for all over Pender County; and it is a special event to kids, especially the T-Shirt Contest. Mr. Pollock said the bottom line of the Spring Festival says we love Pender County. He gave an example of the Rotary Club's participation in the Spring Festival and raising funds for free scholarships for students. Mr. Williams said if you fund one group you will have to fund all of them and the Board should be prepared for requests from different groups. Mr. Tate said the Spring Festival has always been special to him since high school, especially the T-Shirt Contest. Mr. Tate commended Mr. Pollock for being inducted into the North Carolina Bar Association Hall of Fame for General Practitioners. Mr. Thurman added this induction is among the highest level by the Bar Association, Mr. Pollock was one of six across the state, and there has only been 123 ever.

3. **Dr. Reta Shiver, Social Services Director: Update on REAP Pilot Project.**

Ms. Alecia Williamson, Social Worker Supervisor, represented Dr. Shiver and delivered the presentation. Ms. Williamson explained: REAP is the acronym for "Reaching for Excellence and Accountability in Practice;" this is a Child Welfare Technical Assistance Model that includes a "Self Assessment" process of DSS and the delivery of technical assistance from the State to help improve and enhance the quality of our service delivery to families; eight counties in North Carolina make up the pilot counties; the REAP Pilot is the first in the Nation; North Carolina is the first State; and Pender has the honor of being one of the first counties to engage in this Child Welfare Technical Assistance Model Program. The Power Point presentation included: Vision; Components; Where are We Now; What Do We Hope to Accomplish; No Cost to Pender County; List of Partners; and Progress. Mr. Williams asked where the group gets their funding and Ms. Williamson said she assumes the funding federal funding since the program is on a national level.

4. **Ken Vafier, Senior Planner: Presentation on Comprehensive Transportation Planning Process.**

Mr. Vafier explained Pender County is collaborating with the NC DOT, towns and other entities to create a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), which is a long-range multi-modal transportation plan that identifies deficiencies and formulates recommendations to existing and future transportation networks. Mr. Vafier said a kickoff meeting for Pender County's CTP was held on January 13, 2011, and a CTP Steering Committee has been formed. Mr. Shane York, Transportation Engineer with the NC DOT and the Wilmington MPO Coordinator, delivered a Power Point Presentation entitled "Transportation Planning for Pender County," which included: What is Transportation Planning for the Future-Purpose, Primary Objectives and Product; What is a CTP; What are the Benefits of Having a CTP; a Comprehensive Transport Plan Does NOT-make a promise to build roads or pinpoint the location of new roads; Where Does a CTP Fit in the Big Picture; Comprehensive Transportation Plan-Multimodal, Recommendations and Highway Categories; Example CTP Highway Map; and Transportation Planning Process. Mr. Don Eggert of Cape Fear RPO-RTAC added remarks, including the fact that they want the public's input and a survey will be distributed in the next few weeks.

5. **Erik Harvey, ITS Director; and Jerry Simmons, GIS Administrator: Update on New Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Website.**

Mr. Harvey explained: the ITS Department will be launching a new Geographical Information Systems Interactive website on April 1, 2011; the new GIS website will allow citizens to search tax parcel records,

view aerial imagery and identify layers; the current system is extremely slow; and the new system will allow our citizens stronger and better service. Mr. Simmons added the current GIS website was developed on a platform that is out of date; we're trying to make the new site as simple as possible; and the new website was designed and developed in-house, providing a savings to the County. Mr. Simmons demonstrated a map of the new website. Mr. Brown said this will be a key asset to our citizens.

6. **Wes Davis, Pender Adult Services; Barbara Mullins, Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program: Presentation on the New Retired Senior Volunteer Program.**

Mr. Davis explained Pender County is one of only three counties in the State of North Carolina and one of only 23 agencies nation-wide to receive a grant to implement a new RSVP – Retired Senior Volunteer Program. He said it is a federal grant that recruits volunteers ages 55 and over to provide vital volunteer services throughout the County and is intended to reduce the demand on public and non-profit agencies by providing human services to the local community. Ms. Mullins said the specific areas they will be targeting are tutoring middle school students in reading and raising reading levels; aid to shut-ins (companion care); and helping mentally disabled young adults. Ms. Mullins read some statistics on the number of volunteers and number of children mentally challenged children helped, and asked the Board to help get the word out about the program. Mr. Tate said it is always good to have volunteers in a community.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Ray Dutkiewicz of Hampstead was upset because of an incident involving the owner of Pat's Restaurant at Olde Point County Club and a county inspector. Mr. Dutkiewicz explained: he had tried to see the inspector on February 21<sup>st</sup> to inquire on the status of an investigation into the restaurant; the inspector was not there so he told the secretary he would be in to discuss it with the appropriate official the next morning at 8:00 a.m.; when he pulled into the annex the next day to meet with the inspector, he was confronted and later assaulted by the restaurant owner; he later learned that the county inspector told the owner ahead of time that he was going to be there to make an inquiry; the inspector dismissed all his questions acting as if he could care less; he doesn't feel the inspector was properly punished with just a verbal reprimand; and he didn't want the incident made public but he later found out that the Interim Health Director had gone to the newspapers with it. Mr. Tate was concerned that a county inspector called the restaurant owner and told him about the meeting. Mr. Williams was concerned that the incident could have escalated into violence on county property. He asked Mr. Thurman if the situation would have escalated into violence on county property, would the county have been held liable. Mr. Thurman said a lawsuit could have been a potential claim. Mr. Williams said if everything happened the way it is being presented, it could have been a setup. Mr. Ward asked Mr. Dutkiewicz if he ever got the answers he was looking for and Mr. Dutkiewicz said no. Mr. Ward said he thinks Mr. Dutkiewicz needs to go before the Board of Health; people don't need to be threatened; there seems to be a lot going on with the Board of Health; and he hopes they take this seriously. Mr. Brown said Mr. Dutkiewicz did call him and was very upset and concerned by the events that took place, but he turned it over to Mr. Raynor and Health Board Chairman Mrs. King. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Thurman to address the Board of Health's role and authority. Mr. Thurman said the Board of Commissioners does appoint the Board of Health but they don't have the authority to deal with personnel. There was no formal action taken by the Board.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Brown presented the four items on the Consent Agenda and asked for any discussion or questions. There being none, Mr. Tate made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and the Consent Agenda was unanimously approved as follows:

7. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of March 7, 2011.

8. Resolution Authorizing Refund for Over Payment of North Carolina Real Estate Excise Tax to Manor Ventures, LLC in the Amount of \$280,50.
9. Resolution Accepting Absentee Voting Site HAVA Grant in the Amount of \$19,520.
10. Resolution Authorizing Purchase Order to Indoff Business Interiors to Purchase Refurbished Office Panels: \$19,788.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

12. **Presentation of Annual Report of Criminal Justice Partnership Program; Resolution Approving Execution of Criminal Justice Partnership Program Continuation Grant for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and Approval of the CJPP Advisory Board as Presented: \$74,179.**

Ms. Knoerzer explained this item is presenting the Annual Report; asking for approval of the grant for FY 2011-2012; and asking for approval of the budget as presented. She noted this is the 14<sup>th</sup> year that Pender County has participated in the CJPP grant program. Mr. Neal Batten of Coastal Horizons gave some statistics and requirements of patients to participate in the program. He said the program accomplishes two things – provides regular outpatient treatment; and helps the patient start a drug-free life. The patients have to have a job or attend school, and see their probation officer once or twice monthly. Mr. Charlie Harris of CDTEG presented statistics on what has been done so far this year, cost savings, treatment hours, treatment costs, number of completions, and savings on treatment/versus incarcerations. Mr. Ward noted he is the new Commissioner representative on the CJPP Board; and noted Board members Samenthia Jones and Tom Bradshaw are present in the audience. Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to approve the resolution, Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

13. **Resolution to Consider Approving Appointment to the Pender County Council on Community Affairs Advisory Board; and the Nursing/Adult Care Homes Advisory Board.**

Mr. Brown noted that Ms. Walker's application had inadvertently been missed at a previous meeting because of something else that was going on. Mr. Williams made a motion to appoint Ms. Rose Gates to the Council on Community Affairs representing an alternate position with term to be announced; and to appoint Ms. Donna Walker to serve a one-year term on the Nursing/Adult Care Homes Advisory Board representing a public member position, with term to expire June 30, 2012. Mr. Tate seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

14. **Resolution to Approve Appointment to the 2011 Pender County Board of Equalization and Review (BOER).**

Mr. Williams asked about the number of appointments to the Board of E&R and Mr. Benton said it is normally five members, with one alternate. Ms. Pridgen noted there is an application for the alternate position for the next meeting. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve appointment of Mr. Walter Baker to the Board of Equalization and Review to serve a one-year term, with term to expire March 6, 2012.

## **ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER**

Mr. Benton said Mr. Lyn Shore of Assessment Solutions is in attendance to answer any questions the Board might have pertaining to the revaluation. Mr. Shore said everything was going very well and they had had 801 face-to-face hearings as of Friday. Mr. Williams and Mr. Brown said everyone they had talked to said the Revaluation Office had treated them very fairly and they were treated with dignity and respect. Mr. Brown asked if you are in an area that has homes that have been up for sale for a while, what does the company fall back on. Mr. Shore said if you don't find homes of comparable values in a neighborhood, they look at another neighborhood that has very comparable values. Mr. Shore then explained the informal appeals process and the formal appeals process.

**ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Mr. Thurman had no additional items.

**ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Mr. Rivenbark said the incident with Mr. Dutkiewicz, concerning a county employee, never should have happened.

Mr. Tate said he echoes Mr. Rivenbark's thoughts on the incident with the employee. Mr. Tate said he and Chairman Herring of the Board of Education will be visiting schools on Wednesday and will report back to the Board.

Other Board members reiterated that they agree with Mr. Rivenbark and Mr. Tate concerning the incident with Mr. Dutkiewicz.

Mr. Tony Musolino invited Board members to a Veterans Day celebration at Ogden Park later in April.

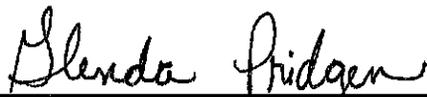
There was discussion of holding community fire department meetings and Commissioners visiting fire departments in their respective districts.

**CLOSED SESSION**

There were no items for closed session.

The Board recessed at 5:36 p.m. and reconvened in a joint meeting with the Board of Health at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:



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Rick Benton, Clerk to the Board