

**Montgomery County Commissioners Meeting**

**March 1, 2005 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

**Chairman – William D. Maness “Billy”**

**Vice-Chairman – Dolon W. Corbett**

**Commissioner - Sally M. Morris**

**Commissioner – R.C. Bostic**

**Commissioner – George H. Knight, Jr.**

**County Manager –**

**Clerk – Laura B. Morton**

**County Attorney – Russell J. Hollers**

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, March 1, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Assembly Room. A full board was present. Chairman Maness called the meeting to order and the following was heard:

**Invocation**

Rev. Thomas Andruski pastor of Mercy Chapel gave the invocation.

**Approval of Minutes**

In a motion made by Commissioner Corbett, seconded by Commissioner Knight, and so the motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes.

**Public Forum**

*Jerry Lee Thomas* who was scheduled to speak regarding taxes did not attend the meeting.

*Larry Mabry* addressed the board regarding concerns about the expansion of the landfill. He said I live at 156 McIntyre Road in Troy. I want take much of your time and I appreciate the opportunity. I have three questions. The first question is a year ago I was asked to serve on a committee to look into the landfill situation and make recommendation. At this point, according to the paper, all of the things we were supposed to consider have been decided. I haven't heard anything about a meeting. My question is what happened to that committee? Chairman Maness said I don't the committee, we talked about forming one. Mr. Mabry said I was asked to serve so I assumed there was one. Mr. Maness said we talked about forming one. First of all, Republic hasn't officially come to the commissioners and asked the commissioners for anything, expansion or anything. He said the mayors have gotten together and talked about it. I am sure they are concerned if the something happens to the landfill because the county pays their disposal costs. Officially, as a Board of Commissioners, the landfill has not come to us for an expansion or anything to do with the landfill yet. He said the next question is, I assume once this request is made, that there will be a public hearing set, I understand that is required by law. Chairman Maness said there is a formal process that anything that happens for expansion or anything on the landfill, there is more than one public hearing required. It is a process. Mr. Mabry said then you will reserve the courthouse? Chairman Maness said we will reserve wherever the commissioners see fit.

Chairman Maness said I know the biggest majority of the people here tonight are concerned with the landfill. If there is anyone that would like to come up and speak, we have a full agenda, but I know people taking there time out; and I know this is an issue that you want to speak on like Larry. If you would like to come up and speak about the landfill, this would be the time to speak during the public forum. The rest of the agenda is full.

*Richard Batten* also addressed the board regarding concerns of about the expansion of the landfill. He

said I am a Vietnam veteran and I am pretty used to seeing the shaft. I know it when I see it coming. This landfill expansion is a shaft. The people met at the courthouse a year or so ago and the majority of them were against it. The commissioners did not do them no favor by tabling the agenda, you did not vote on it, it was tabled. The people's will was not done. For someone to go against the people that voted them into office, I can't understand with the majority of people are against something why it would ever be brought up again. I just wanted to say that. I would like for you all to remember there is such a thing as a posse comitatus. If the time comes and we have to, you can be removed from office. Thank you. Chairman Maness said thank you for coming.

*Teng Vang* also addressed the board regarding concerns about the expansion of the landfill. Mr. Vang told the board he appreciated their time. He said he was also asked to serve on the committee for the landfill expansion. My question is, is there still going to be a committee? Chairman Maness said if and when Republic comes, this is me speaking, if the commissioners see fit that there should be a committee, sure, I have not problem with that.

### **Presentation of Resolutions from the Towns Supporting an Expansion of the Landfill**

Chairman Maness asked all of the mayors if they would come forward.

*Mr. Jimmy Blake, Mayor of Biscoe*, was presented representing the town council of Biscoe, which has passed a resolution supporting the existing landfill. We feel it is very important to the state, county, and to the Town of Biscoe. He said I have been in public office for seven years and this is the first time I have formally addressed this board, and our commissioners feel this is very important. I did a little investigating on my own and as long as the State of North Carolina is producing solid waste, according to the Institute of Government, this is best way to dispose of it, landfill. He said I did research on the history of our landfill. We are a rural county with a lot of needs, one of the needs we don't have are higher taxes. I am certain if we don't continue our landfill, we will have higher taxes. He said I won't take any more of your time, but I would like to pass to you a copy of the resolution that was passed by all five of our town commissioners. Mr. Blake thanked the board for this time. He presented the resolution passed by the Town of Biscoe.

*Mr. D.T. Scarborough, a Town Commissioners from Candor*, was present in the place of Mayor Becky Williams. (Mrs. Williams was out of town with a sick relative). Mr. Scarborough read the resolution the Candor Town board approved in support of the landfill expansion. He presented the resolution passed by the Town of Candor.

*Mr. Frank Kersey, Mayor of Star*, was present representing the town council of Star. He explained the Star town council unanimously approved a resolution to encourage you to keep the landfill open and to expand it. He said I could go into some of the things that have already been said, but it boils down to we think we have a safe place to keep our garbage. The state and federal government think so. We don't see any other financial way to do it. We can not afford another tax increase. Thank you for your consideration. He presented the resolution passed by the Town of Star.

*Mr. Earl Poplin, Mayor of Mt. Gilead*, was present representing the town council of Mt. Gilead. He said our board passed this resolution unanimously, after careful consideration of all of the options. We do not see a reasonable option. If the landfill is closed in 2010 or 2011, then it seems to me, with what information we have, we have to set up and operate a transfer station, which would be extremely expensive. It seems to us, after careful consideration that it is reasonable for us to expand the landfill. There is no other option that we can see. He presented the resolution passed by the Town of Mt. Gilead.

*Mr. Roy Maness, Mayor of Troy*, was in attendance representing the town council of Troy. He

explained that he was present concerning the same resolution. He said five of Troy's board members are also in attendance. I can tell you we have thoroughly looked into this from the financial statement. The landfill is out there, it has been there. It is much safer than what we had years ago. There is no question in my mind this is a financial burden that none of us can stand. There are other people that will be glad to take our waste from other counties. We are too small to do it all by our self. I echo what the others have said, we urge you to consider expanding the landfill in its present location. We think if you don't do that we are talking about somewhere between a fifteen and twenty cent tax increase, at least. Then the towns would have to have an additional one. We know you have burdens coming. There are structural problems in the schools and other areas that we just don't think we can afford that, but that is your decision, but we just wanted you to know how we feel. We support the expansion of the landfill and also to keep it where it is. He presented the resolution passed by the Town of Troy.

### **Presentation of Check from Uwharrie Environmental**

Joe Reynolds, Operations Manager, Sue Roark, Office Manager, and Tom Flanagan, General Manager of Uwharrie Environmental presented a check in the amount of \$75,000 to the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Maness explained the county receives this check every year from Uwharrie Environmental and it is used for recreation. The money pays for umpire fees and insurance for sports outside of the school system.

### **Sandhills Mental Health Resolution**

Chairman Maness asked Commissioner Bostic to explain this resolution. Commissioner Bostic explained this resolution is a resolution that all counties in the mental health will sign in order to bring on two extra counties, Lee and Harnett Counties. The Department of Mental Health has ruled that a mental health division has to be over 250,000 people. They didn't meet that quota. This is the reason they have to come in with the Sandhills Mental Health group. This is not to say the citizens of Montgomery, Anson, Moore, Richmond, will receive any less service than they have already been. This has been studied. The board has looked into it, and the same service level will be extended to all of the citizens that it now represents. Commissioner Bostic said I urge you to support this resolution that would bring Lee and Harnett Counties on board.

In a motion made by Commissioner Bostic, seconded by Commissioner Corbett, and so the motion carried unanimously to approve the Sandhills Mental Health Resolution bringing Lee and Harnett Counties into Sandhills Mental Health.

### **Board of Health Appointment**

Chairman Maness explained that at the last meeting, Rev. Ernesto Robledo had been recommended to be reappointed to Board of Health; however the Board of Commissioners felt that due to the fact that his wife is an employee of the Health Department that it was a conflict of interest. He said the Board of Health has recommended that Jordi Roman we appointed to serve of the Board of Health in the place of Rev. Robledo.

In a motion made by Commissioner Bostic, seconded by Commissioner Knight, and so the motion carried unanimously to appoint Jordi Roman to the Board of Health.

### **Memorandum of Understanding Between the County & Cooperative Extension**

This item was deleted from the agenda because Susan Hamilton informed the Chairman Maness that the Memorandum of Understanding was not ready to be voted on.

### **Set a Public Hearing for March 15 Regarding the Water Bond Extension**

Mrs. Cathy Baxter explained the request for extension. She said in April of 1997, we issued \$500,000 worth of water bonds for our Water District II. We did not issue all of those bonds at that time. They are open for issuance for a twenty year period. If we so request an application for extension for an additional three year. This is why we need to set a public hearing to request an extension on these bonds.

Chairman Maness asked if there were any questions. Mr. Maness said basically this is to leave them open.

In a motion made by Commissioner Morris, seconded by Commissioner Knight, and so the motion carried unanimously to set the public hearing regarding the water bond extension for March 15.

### **Budget Amendments**

***RC&D Amendment*** – Mrs. Baxter said this amendment is the additional funding for RC&D. We had budgeted a total of \$1,500, but we need an additional \$1,500 to meet what RC&D has requested. Chairman Maness said I think this one was brought to us before and was voted down. Mrs. Baxter said yes sir. Chairman Maness said I had it put back on the agenda. We had a gentleman come in and explain about what RC&D was doing. I had been asked to put it back on the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bostic and a second was made by Commissioner Knight to approve the additional \$1,500.

Chairman Maness asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Morris said Mr. Chairman; I thought this was in there. The reason I would be for this, I was under the impression at budget time that we left the \$3,000. I don't know how it got to \$1,500.

Commissioner Corbett said Mr. Chairman I went back and checked my notes, and it was definitely left in May. Chairman Maness said I agree.

The motion carried unanimously to approve the additional \$1,500 for RC&D.

***Brutonville Caregivers*** – Mrs. Baxter said this is the grant we discussed at the last meeting regarding the pass through money for Brutonville Concerned Citizens. There are no county funds involved with this. This is just to add it to our budget. Chairman Maness we went through this a few weeks ago.

In a motion made by Commissioner Bostic, seconded by Corbett, and so the motion carried unanimously to approve the grant received for the Brutonville Caregivers/Brutonville Concerned Citizens in the amount of \$8,764.

Health Department – *Kathleen Devore Jones presented the following budget amendments:*

### **Grant from NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

The NC DENR has awarded the Health Department \$2,546 to purchase a microscope to use in its mosquito surveillance program. This program includes capturing and identifying mosquitoes in various parts of the county to learn more about our risk for the various viral diseases spread by mosquitoes and providing public education about how to control mosquito populations in the county.

<b>Revenue Account</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount</b>
DENR Funds - Envir. Health	3530.0330	\$2,546
<b>Object of Expenditure</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Environmental Health Supply	5180.0299	\$2,546

Chairman Maness asked for further questions. Commissioner Bostic asked why don't we spray. Mrs. Jones said we have so many that it would be a drop in the bucket to control the mosquito population. Even in the urban areas it is more of a public relations related. She said some of the things we are looking at is identifying the kind of mosquitoes because there is a certain type that spread the West Nile Virus. That kind, as funny as it seems that kind doesn't really grow in springs. Some ways to control those do not involve spraying as much as it does teaching people not to keep water around in their tires, etc. We are just trying to get a better handle about what kind we have. All of the counties in the State have identified West Nile Virus, so we do all have it, and we all have had cases in human beings too. She said Jon Vinroot is the environmental specialist looking at it.

Commissioner Bostic said the pond just behind my house and it was covered. Mrs. Jones said we will come out and get them. Another thing there is a kind of fish that eat mosquitoes. Commissioner Bostic said I will come by when they come back.

Commissioner Corbett said for approximately 20 years Progress Energy sprayed Lake Tillery until the EPA stopped them, and now there is a mosquito problem. They sprayed from boats for over 20 years. Mrs. Jones said really. That sounds like a good idea and didn't cost the county any money. Mr. Corbett said it was a good deal but they stopped it.

Commissioner Knight said I think that maybe, I don't know if I brought this up in one of our meetings or not. Can we do anything to eliminate the growing of mosquitoes, like making people get rid of these old tires at these garages and places? Mrs. Jones said some counties have ordinances about that, that would be something the Board of Health would maybe, if we have evidence; then the Board of Health would want to propose to the commissioners. But first before you come up with rules you would have to have evidence. To collect information on what we have. Commissioner Knight asked Mrs. Jones if her environmental specialist could he take a look at this issue as he travels through the county; these old tires and things? How they gather and breed mosquitoes. Mrs. Jones said that is part of what he is doing. He is not doing at a special time; he is doing it as he is out.

Commissioner Bostic said before I came to the meeting there was a young man that had garbage piled up everywhere and a lot of cars, I told him to call you all. Mrs. Jones said we can't do anything about that. Mr. Bostic said what do we need to do about it? Mrs. Jones said that has to do with a Solid Waste Ordinances and other types of things. We get calls like that all of the time. Commissioner Knight asked who would be responsible for coming up with these ordinances. Some counties have ordinances so these old cars are not just left out in the county. Mrs. Jones said that is all of your ballpark. Mr. Knight said some people do not allow these old tires and things to be gathering. Mrs. Jones said in a rural county it is really hard. People are just more interested in their own private right. She said first you have to measure what the problem is. Chairman Maness said our zoning ordinance adheres to a lot of that I am sure, but to enforce it in a rural county gets to be tough.

In a motion made by Commissioner Corbett, seconded by Commissioner Bostic, and so the motion carried unanimously to approve the grant received from NC DENR in the amount of \$2,546.

**Server to Provide Backup for Health Department's 40 Computers**

Two recent events regarding HD computers pointed out a previously unidentified problem: the Health Department does not have a back up system to preserve data and provide security for medical records and other information on the 40 computers used by Health Department personnel. The events: 1) A hard drive on a computer crashed, and the records on it were lost; 2) An employee who routinely saved information from her hard drive to floppy disks found that the information saved was irretrievable. Because the Health Department has such a sizable investment in computers, the Board of Health requests that the Health Department be allowed to use \$10,000 from its Medicaid escrow account to rectify this problem and not risk losing data and medical information any longer. After consultation with two computer consulting groups, we have obtained a best estimate of \$10,000 to provide us with the computer equipment necessary to automatically back up data on all 40 computers each evening. The Medicaid escrow account currently has a balance of \$54,374. The state DHHS has specified that these funds must be used to enhance services in the programs in which they were earned. DHHS will approve the use of escrow funds for this purpose.

<b>Revenue Account</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Designated fund balance -- Health Dept	2920.0000	\$10,000
<b>Object of Expenditure</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Capital Outlay -- Equipment	5110.0500	\$10,000

A motion was made by Commissioner Knight and seconded by Commissioner Bostic.

Chairman Maness said this \$10,000 is not coming out of our fund balance is it? Mrs. Baxter said no, this would be coming out of the designated fund balance that is set up for the Health Department in grant funds that are rolled over from year to year. Mrs. Jones said it is a little more detailed than that. She explained what we do is charge fees for Medicaid clients. At the end of the year, we are audited and the state comes up with a system saying our costs were more than the fees we are allowed to charge. Then they come up with a state average of what the costs for every county were. Then they give it back to the counties that earn the money. It is like settling up every year. So every year we get around \$74,000. When I came here it was around \$50,000. That money goes into fund balance and the state says how we can spend it. Chairman Maness said so the county can't tell you how to spend it, it must be we are approving this budget amendment. She said every year we could put these funds into our budget as revenue. Cathy and I have worked it out so we could that \$50,000 in as revenue. We don't keep it at all, we are generous. We have \$54,000 in it. Commissioner Morris said if this is coming from Medicaid, are we not paying Medicaid. Mrs. Jones said this is the federal share.

Commissioner Corbett said everything I have read in the last few weeks is the federal and state governments are going to cut and have the counties pay more Medicaid money. Mrs. Jones said it is the federal government wanting the states to pay. Mr. Corbett said then they will pass it on to us. He asked how she sees this effecting her department. Mrs. Jones said we are very concerned. Mr. Corbett said it is kill us. Mrs. Jones said the counties are trying to get the state to gradually assume more of it. All of the Health Departments and the lobbyists are all behind that too. Commissioner Corbett said we need to encourage everyone to use their telephone and call the people who vote on this too. Mrs. Jones said by the way the cigarette tax our board proposed, the revenue from that will help the counties. Commissioner Corbett said the lottery would too.

The motion carried unanimously to this budget amendment in the amount of \$10,000.

Chairman Maness said I appreciate all you have done for Montgomery County, we hate to lose you. I

know you have other things that you want to do, and I understand. From me and the commissioners, I want to let you know how much you have done. Mrs. Jones said I have really enjoyed being here.

### **Day Reporting Request for Additional Funding**

Chairman Maness said this is an issue we tabled last month. We have some people here that would like to speak. Sheriff Jordan thank you for being patient with us. He said Judge Brad Long was present. He said the reason I invited him was because I made some statements last time about judges putting individuals in our program. I didn't want you to think I was blowing spoke or anything. I just wanted him to tell you how they are using it. I know there is a list a mile long that needs funding. I wouldn't trade my job for yours for nothing. He said I will tell you as Chairman of that particular board, I have to, I feel compelled, It is important to me. I am trying the best I can to get you to give us some more funding. You are already helping us. I think this program is worthwhile. It is helping people. We wanted to put a face with what we were saying.

Judge Brad Long, District Court Judge for Montgomery and Randolph, was present. He said it is an honor to be here and I appreciate the board allowing me to speak. I want you to know I appreciate what you guys do. I appreciate how hard you guys have to work on some of these problems. Also, I am impressed with the effectiveness on which you move your agenda. I wish I could master that, and move things along the way you do. I wanted to guys to know the value of the Day Reporting Center. It is my understanding; I am not as schooled as the Sheriff and Ms. Hill about the exact dollar amounts. It is my understanding that they are in some dire need of some funds and we are in danger of losing the Adult Day Reporting Center in Montgomery County if we do not receive some funds from you. I do want you guys to know what the Sheriff said is correct, we do utilize the program. In my opinion, and as you said earlier Chairman, I am speaking for myself, I haven't consulted the other commissioners, I haven't taken a vote of all six of our district court judges. I do feel confident they would feel the same way. It is an important tool and asset of the citizens of the county as we try to move folks through the court system. My understanding is now, and I know if I am incorrect, the Sheriff will correct me, I jail capacity is 44, and I know you guys are working real hard with the Sheriff to alleviate that problem. Our census is around 46. We have 21 people on the pre-trial house arrest program. We are able to put people on the program if pre-trial or post conviction. Pre-trial we have 21. I can't sit here and tell you guys that if we did not have the program, that those 21 people would be in jail, but there would be a certain number of them that would still be in jail. It raises the comfort level of the citizens to know there is a body, an institution to look after these folks while they are out of jail, and providing services for these folks while they are out of jail such as substance abuse assessments, substance abuse treatment. It also raises the comfort level of the judge and the law enforcement community to let some of these people out on pretrial. Certainly there would be a percentage of those, it might be five, it might be ten, it might be eight, that would be in our jail. Instead of our census being 46 it would be 54 or 55. That in itself is an asset. I also like, I am sure the commissioners know, it is also my understanding, and if I am not correct I hope Ms. Hill or the Sheriff will correct me. In Montgomery County, each county is a little bit different, but in Montgomery County this is the only asset the court system has with anger management. If there is someone here from Sandhills, I hope they will correct me; they do not have anger management program, does not have a domestic violence abuse program, and we do have that available through Day Reporting Center. We stand to lose those valuable assets, those valuable programs, if we are not able to pass this through and get a little more money. I know you have a tough decision, and I know you guys have everybody is coming in here asking you to make a difficult decision with the taxpayers money. I appreciate that. I do want you guys to know this is a very important program and a very important asset. I will answer any questions I can. If not I will turn it back over to the Sheriff and Mrs. Hill. Chairman Maness said if it doesn't pass (the \$16,000), we approved the grant and it was sent off and starts effective July 1, what will you do between March; is that today? Mrs. Hill said the end of March. He asked what will you do? Ms. Hill said we would have to shut it down. Chairman Maness

said so you have a three months period there, what would you do during that three months period, just pull out and work it out with Randolph County. Ms. Hill said honestly we would literally have to shut the program down. We could not run any other programs until July 1 because we would not have the funds, to have the staff there, the transportation, to run the programs, and do assessment. We are at maximum capacity at Randolph County as we speak now. In fact we are trying to consolidate numbers and treatment groups and those types of things also. Chairman Maness said another question, why doesn't Randolph County have to put money back into this project and we do. Mrs. Hill said their looking as of July 1; they will be in the same boat next year. This county however, the money we had at the money of July 1, we were short in the very beginning. We had asked the state and talked to the state and thought we could get the \$20,000, but they said, for whatever reason, they were unable to assist us with that and to wait until they got the opportunity to offer discretionary funds. Which they did and we got \$6,000 this go-around. They did not give us all we needed because they only had \$114,000 across the state. We got \$6,000 and it was required to put it into transportation. It could not be used for salaries or anything else. Chairman Maness said now this transportation is exactly what? Ms. Hill said it includes two vans, gas, and maintenance; for driver's contracts (20 hrs a week – 2 drivers). All of that money went to that because we were completely depleted of funds for transportation.

Commissioner Corbett said the first thing a business does when they get into financial trouble is cut help. Have you thought about that? Mrs. Hill said we are pretty much down to the bare bones. I run seven programs to keep a float. It would be extremely difficult for me to come down here and work the program as Ms. Settle does. It is virtually impossible. I can't. I am percentaged out in seven different programs. I am obligated to ensure I run and operated all programs and there is no way I can stay down here and run the program. It takes a full time position to ensure that the program is running and that would be Helen. The other thing is just with my percentage it assisted us in being able to do what we needed to do in this county rather than having my entire salary, which would take a lot of my budget. So we try to incorporate more service delivery for that money. Really in terms of cost effectiveness and efficient needs we are operating about as cost effective and efficiently as we can possibly run it.

Commissioner Corbett said when you run the vans to you always get a 100% of the people you pick up? Ms. Hill said I will have to defer that to Ms. Settle. Ms. Settle came forward to answer the question. She is the case manager for pre-trial offenders. As for our transportation, there is not always 100% everyday. As a matter of effect Monday's class may not be as large as Tuesday's class. Commissioner Corbett asked if they have a choice. Ms. Settle said no they don't. She said substance abuse assessment counselor does the assessment and he judges whether they come one day, two days, or three days a week. Some might just come Monday; some might just come Tuesday, some just on Wednesday. So it is always a different variety of numbers that come at nights. Commissioner Corbett asked what happens if they don't show up. Ms. Settle said if they don't show up, we turn in their names to their Probation Officers. Each day the probation officers get a report from me; and they will check on them and after so many absences they have violated. Commissioner Corbett said could you give us an idea about how many people haven't shown up this year. Ms. Settle said that is hard to say because for each it is different numbers. There may be a class with 16-20 people, the next night it might be more or less. Commissioner Corbett said I have been told in the community, and at least one other commissioner has, they are running from the bus when they see it. Ms. Settle said I haven't had a report of that. I always tell the driver's don't try to find the clients if they are not home, just let us know who they didn't pick up. Usually my drivers will call me and let me know who they didn't pick up, and I right it down and give it to the probation officer the next day.

Chairman Maness asked Randy Harvelle how do you see this working with probation. Mr. Harvelle said first of all, good evening. (Randy Harvelle is the chief probation officer for Montgomery County). He said I was asked here by Pam Hill. I am a board member also. I am here to answer the question

about recivism rates. I think that is what you are driving at now. Commissioner Corbett said yes. Usually what we do is look at it based on a hundred. We start looking at these groups of offenders and what they had done and how serious the offenders are. Usually between twenty and thirty offenders of one hundred need no supervision at all. They have jobs, they have a life, and they have self-esteem. You don't see them in our program. Forty to fifty of these offenders that are on probations, these are the ones the probation officers have to put a little pressure on. These are the ones we have to counsel and work on. Then you have the twenty to twenty-five group; this is the group of offenders that will usually go to jail. They are the most hard core, when it comes to addictions they give the most problems. They are the most desperate. These are the individuals we target in this program. You take one of these individuals that are physically and psychologically addicted, financially desperate and no transportation to get a job. When this individual is sick of abuse and feeling worthless, a lot of times they are approached by a friend, a pimp, a neighbor, or whoever they are, with a sack of dope and a bottle. That is when desperate people take desperate measures to feel better. That is what these buses do. They go out and pick these people up. This day they are tempted, the Day Reporting Center van pulls up and takes them out of that environment to work on their education and their substance abuse, just being in an environment with a supportive staff that helping them with the skills they need to make it through another day. I read an article the other day in one of the Montgomery County newspapers it was describing an interviewees own admission that she gave as a cycle of addiction and desperation that comes with it. They are not able to pay their child support, they are not able to pay their probation, they are not able to comply period, which means they go to jail. With this resource center and the treatment these individuals receive gives them the skills they need to make their decisions. Our program has success rates, not recivism rates, because this group of offenders would likely have gone to jail anyway. If you think about it, if we have one success a year, the taxpayers and the communities as a whole will save what we have requested. If you factor in Social Services, health problems, welfare, you will get even a better return on your money. This program between June 2004 and December 2004 had a 54% success rate. If the result is sobriety for six months or a year, we have accomplished what we otherwise would have had the taxpayers paying for their incarceration and all of the costs incurred with it. What is really great is some of these offenders change their life for the better, and they never re-offend again. Chairman Maness said so you really see it Randy, you have seen it personally. Mr. Harvelle said yes. This program doesn't target just anybody; this is the worst of the worst. The largest about of problems and they are going to go to jail. If we didn't have this program, the judge's only alternative is to send him to jail. So you can build bigger jails or invest a little bit. I know what I read in the paper that Mr. Bostic stated that it sounds like another program the state has dumped on us. It sounds that way to me too, but, if we can make it another year, without having to close our program. If we close the doors to the programs, these people are going to be out of work, and chances are we may not get our staff back, particularly our treatment providers. It takes six months just to get these contracts back together and get these programs to going again, minimum. It is almost a do or die situation. Commissioner Bostic said Mr. Harvelle said you can't always believe what you read in the paper. Mr. Harvelle said that is true. Commissioner Bostic said that wasn't the way I meant it, with all do respect to the press.

Sheriff Jordan said our board member Phil Kissell was also present at the meeting. He also introduced Cateria Flowers. She said I am currently going through the Day Reporting Center myself. The way I feel about this situation is, I used to be that worst person, I was using drugs, and cocaine was my drug of choice. I was getting into a lot of trouble. I have done been through probation and violated that, and have been to prison. When I heard about this program, it made me want to make a change. Since I have been going through this program I have actually changed my life. I am currently taking GED classes and going through substance abuse classes right now. Actually I don't have to go but one day a week, but I go three days a week because this program has offered me something I haven't found anywhere else. I have a little boy. My life has completely changed. Helen and Sheriff Jordan know I was the worst that

you could actually come by. I was robbing, stealing, and selling my body, just to get that drug. I mean, without this program, it is like. People are okaying it for us to use drugs and to be on the street. This program is helped so many people, if you all take it, what are we going to do. I look at it by supporting this program; it is saving money for the state, and for all of these people not being in jail and the jail being overcrowded. It is keeping people clean. It is giving us somewhere to go, and giving us a hope to do something with ourselves. I have really accomplished a lot. Tomorrow, I am going into another program. I have been clean ever since I was released from incarceration. I think that is something we need. You don't find too many people like Helen and Pam that are willing to take out of their time to work with us. I feel that I am speaking for all of the people that go through this program. To answer the question about how many people show up for class, I have never seen more people attend something of this function than I have anything else. I am just speaking as a user, as myself. Thank you.

Cateria's mother came up and said she wanted the board to know that Day Reporting has really been a success; I mean I have tried her to the max. She was faithful throughout this system. You know, it gave her a second chance, because I am a mother myself, I am going to be faithful about it. I was afraid myself. I wanted to go through something that she would have some type of structure about. Because like she said she has done quite a few things, she has hurt a lot of people, even me. I have forgiven her. I have also stood by her, and I am going to continue to work with her and do what I can as a mother to see. Now, when she leaves tomorrow, I will be playing the role as grandmother and mother, which I do not mind. I will do anything on this earth to help my daughter succeed and also want to see this program succeed. I have also known some others that went through daily reporting and did well. Those names weren't mentioned. I personally know a few. But, I want to say to lose this program would be a disaster. We really need it, because if you give them a chance, you will not only see people like my daughter coming forth doing well, you would see some others as well. She said if I can do anything to help someone else as well as my daughter, it doesn't matter who it is, I am willing to do it. Please give this program another chance. It is very vital to this county and to the people that are going to this program daily. Thank you.

Sheriff Jordan said thank you for your patience with us. Chairman Maness said are there any questions or comments for anyone.

Commissioner Knight said this is the young lady I had mentioned in the last meeting. That had spoken in the last board meeting I attended in the Day Reporting Center, and it was so touching. I guess this is reasons I said some of the things I said in the last meeting in support of this program. I see no way that we can afford not to have it. I don't know what we did before we had the program, but I don't know we can't do without it now. If we are going to spend money on something to help our people of this county, we need to listen to some of these people sometimes. People that come before us that come before us that might have high standing that we pay attention to, and I see why we can't pay attention to some of these people we consider our problems in this county. We need to listen to these people also. They speak, some of them may not pay taxes, but they are still citizens of this county, and we need to listen to all of our citizens.

Commissioner Bostic said Mr. Chairman, I move that we support this program with the \$16,000 the money to be taken from the sale of the Pee Dee Community Building and not bother the reserve fund. If I can get a second. Commissioner Knight said I second that motion.

Chairman Maness repeated the motion that was on the floor and asked for further discussion.

Chairman Maness said I have a question for Randy Harvelle. The financial impact of this versus the \$16,000, you kind of touched on that a little bit, what kind of numbers are you looking at for the three

month period if. . .By funding this program for three months with this \$16,000, what kind of financial impact is that going to give us on the other side. Mr. Harvelle said if you processed twenty offenders to go through the prison system, to get all of their shots, medical, clothing, everything that it takes, it will be more than \$16,000. Chairman Maness said you think in the three month period we can make that money up, I guess is my question. Is this saving money for us Sheriff? Sheriff Jordan said yes absolutely, most definitely. They won't have to be back in my jail, and that is one of the reason I support the program. The jail is already for.

Mr. Harvelle said I just wanted to say, you asked a few minutes ago, what happened before we had the program, this is before the state started dismantling our mental health system. This is no Dorthia Dix, the state funding for mental health is no where what is used to be for mental health. To get a person into treatment is almost next to impossible in the mental health system. That is where this program was formed in the first place. The State of North Carolina is not supporting mental health as we know it now as they once did; they are privatizing or trying to anyway.

Chairman Maness said this is a big issue to pull the money out of fund balance. I just want to make a business decision along with a personal decision on this thing. The financial side of it, if we stick \$16,000 out of the sell of our building, are we seeing a return on the other side? The Sheriff is saying yes. Mr. Harvelle said that is obvious. We have the successes to show for it. The treatment alone, if you paid for these individuals to get treatment they get over here, that cost alone would be more than \$16,000. It comes down to whether they are going to jail or they aren't going to jail. Of that group, I showed you what our statistics were. How many people were in the program and how many went back to jail, and it is about half.

Commissioner Morris said we applied for this grant are we going to be in this same shape next March asking for more money? Sheriff Jordan said we are doing everything we can to speak with our legislators and speaking to folks in Raleigh, trying to keep from being in this situation. We are trying once again to get more money for our program than we got last year. We are in the stage where we are just asking and pleading and meeting in Raleigh. I am going to Raleigh to try to get more money for our program. We have always have had an under-funded program. Our desire is certainly not to come back to you next year. Commissioner Morris said again my concern is the money issues that we have to face with all departments; not against the people. I would like to do all we can for the people, but we have constraints on all departments that we have to look at and everybody is getting tight on their budget.

Commissioner Corbett said my problem is we voted last May not to go back into this fund balance at all during the fiscal year. That is my objection.

The motion to approve the \$16,000 carried with a 3-2 vote. (Voting for the motion, Commissioner Bostic, Commissioner Knight, Chairman Maness; voting against the motion, Commissioner Morris, Commissioner Corbett).

## **Discussion of Budget for Fiscal Year 2005-2006**

### **Health Insurance**

Mrs. Baxter said it has come to my attention that we are having problems with our insurance carrier. I proceed to request to get quotes from some additional insurance carriers. I was informed that I had to stop that, because I had to ask permission from the county commissioners to go out and request proposals for insurance quote for our major medical. She said that is why I am here tonight, to ask if I could go and request proposals for our major medical insurance.

Commissioner Morris said I asked Pauline to go through and ask the people who had trouble because I have had trouble myself. Lots of people in the county have had trouble with this insurance, and when you walk in with that card the doctor's office will say um. They know it is not a good plan. I understand that our co-pay. I am not sure if it is on the drugs or the doctor's visit, but it has gone from \$20 to \$40. When I voted on this insurance back at budget time, we were trying to get something that was equal or better than the employees had and we didn't get that. I think we definitely need to look at this.

Commissioner Corbett said Cathy, as you are getting these quotes, you know from one company from another, those are supposedly confidential. In other words if Blue Cross comes in and asked you to share with them someone else's, do you share it with them? Let's say if Blue Cross gives you a quote first, and two other insurances come in and ask you to see what they quoted? Would you give them that number? Mrs. Baxter said no. He said you haven't had anyone ask you what the quote was for last year. Mrs. Baxter said no, the only question I have asked is for the claims history. The only thing I have asked if they would like to quote us for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Corbett said my point is when this happens we don't need to show John Doe what Jane Doe's quote is. Mrs. Baxter said no sir. Mr. Commissioner Corbett said because I think we are getting into antitrust violations there myself.

Mrs. Baxter said we can not request a quote from Blue Cross; we have to go through the North Carolina Commissioners Association. Commissioner Corbett said have they not been in to see you, Blue Cross Blue Shield? Mrs. Baxter said no sir they have not. Mr. Corbett said what about their agent? Mrs. Baxter said no sir they have not. Commissioner Corbett said thank you.

Commissioner Morris said we do not have to be in the self-insured program, in fact we are too small, is that correct. Mrs. Baxter said we are not fully at this time; prior to that with the association we were self-insured. I have spoken with an agent with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and they can quote us for a fully-funded insurance program through Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Chairman Maness said my recommendation for this is, and I was the commissioner that told Cathy that she needed to come speak to the board; I got a call from the guy that helped us last year. Billy Hudson is who we used last year, I would have Cathy contact Bill Hudson and start working on this and be ready for our budget and look at all options.

Commissioner Morris said I think we need to let Cathy do that. Commissioner Bostic agreed. He said I don't think we need to go through that because that was slanted the last time Mr. Chairman. I think the right way to do it is let Cathy solicit the bids, no disrespect for. Mr. Hudson. Commissioner Corbett said I totally agree you just don't want to share them with other people, that is against the law.

Chairman Maness said I don't think this is something we need to vote on, this is something I think is a great idea. He told Mrs. Baxter to move forward with this and go ahead and get our quotes in for the budget. When we are doing our budget you will have that information on hand. Not only looking at price, but quality too.

Commissioner Morris said the employees would have been better off last year if we would have let them paid part of their premium and stayed with something better than this plan.

Mrs. Baxter said do you want me to obtain quotes for the fully insured and not the self insured. Chairman Maness said every option out there. The commissioners have granted you the permission to go out and solicit bids. Get the very best you can find, price and quality, and bring it back to us.

Commissioner Knight said Mr. Chair, let's don't do like we did before and try to get the cheapest that we can get for our people, and I think that is what we did last year. We looked at how much money we could save, not even, we might have considered our people, but we need to pay more attention to the services. You get what you pay for. We can get some that is cheap and get something cheap if we want to, and save all of that money that we would save. When you get something, let's get some quotes for something we can do for our people. We want the very best we can get for our people, and that is what we need to pay for. Mrs. Baxter said yes sir. Commissioner Morris agreed. Commissioner Bostic said the very best we can afford. Commissioner Knight said you can afford what you want to afford. If we want to get the very best that we can get for our people, then that is what we need to look at.

### **Budget Hearings**

Chairman Maness said he was going to meet with the department heads at 8:30 on Thursday morning. He said one more commissioner can come. Commissioner Morris said she would. He said Cathy is going to hand out letters to the department heads regarding the budget. He explained that April 6, 7, 13, and 14 have been set aside for budget hearings. He asked the board to mark these dates down. This is a time when all of the department heads come in with their budget. Those meetings will last from 8:30 until 12:00. He said we are going to go in and talk with the department heads and see just how tight they can get those budgets before they get to us.

### **Department Closing Early**

Commissioner Morris said it came to my attention this week that one department was closing a half a day a month, just closing the whole department down, and I think we either need to have the Chairman Maness or as county manager and write a letter and tell the departments that our hours are fund 8:00 until 5:00. That is what the commissioners set many years ago. I don't think we need to have a department closed down. You can do your training or your staff meetings and have a skeleton staff there, but you need to have it opened. Chairman Maness said make a note of that and we will bring it up in the department head meeting.

### **School Resource Officer Concern**

Commissioner Bostic said Mr. Chairman; I have a concerned that has bothered me greatly in the last few weeks. I would like to maybe look at that at budget time. We have a judge here now; we have a good audience and have him captivated now. Mr. Commissioner Bostic said we have a number of problems with the resource officers. They are treating our kids like they are an adult. We know that kids sometimes make bad decisions and they are charged with felonies and things that will go with them for the rest of their life. I don't think this should be. I think we need to look at who is charging our kids. We had a kid that was charged with communicating a threat. I think about the number of times that I told kids at school, you wait until I get you off of this bus; I am going to see what I can do. That is no reason to take a kid down, fingerprint them and charge them with a crime. I don't want anyone who does wrong to go unpunished, but the severity of what we are going through, if we are not careful, everyone of our students are going to have a record before they get out of high school. I would like to look at that when we start doing the budget, see if we can do something to change it. Some way or something needs to be done to do that. Had one kid that went to a resource officer, apparently grabbed him to take him to the office. You know when you grab a kid now, with their peers looking at them they are going to rebel. I think it could have been handled in a better way, they could have said let's go to the office, and I think the kid would have went with him. When you put your hand on a kid, you have asked for trouble. This kid was charged \$300, 6 months probation, and 20 hours of community service. I think that is too harsh and we need to look at this gentlemen. These are our children. Thank you.

Chairman Maness recessed the regular session and go into regular session.

Commissioner Morris said pursuant to N.C. General Statute Section 143-318.11(a)(6). I would like to make a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues pertaining to the county manager position. Commissioner Bostic seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

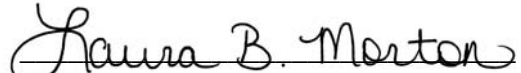
The board came out of executive session and said there was nothing to report.

**Adjournment**

Having no further business to discuss Chairman Maness adjourned the meeting.

  
William D. Maness, Chairman



  
Laura B. Morton, Clerk to the Board