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## **Press Release**

October 10, 2018 For Immediate Release Contact: Kyle Breuer, Planning and Community Development Director, 910-259-1202

**Board of Commissioners** George R. Brown, Jr., Chairman

Jackie Newton David A. Piepmever

J. David Williams, Jr.

Archibald "Fred" McCoy, Vice Chairman

## Hazard Mitigation Activities

PENDER COUNTY, NC – Following a federally declared disaster such as Hurricane Florence, local governments are eligible to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds (HMGP) that will reduce or eliminate the losses from future disasters. Projects must provide a long-term solution to a problem, for example, elevation of a home to reduce the risk of flood damage as opposed to buying sandbags and pumps to fight the flood. In addition, a project's potential savings must be more than the cost of implementing the project. These activities may include elevating structures in the regulatory floodplain, acquiring property to prevent future losses, or retrofitting structures to minimize future damages.

"It's important to understand that these activities have not been activated by FEMA or the State of North Carolina and therefore, Pender County is unaware of any potential funding amounts or timing of this potential future grant application" said Kyle Breuer, Planning and Community Development Director. "Projects such as this have taken years to receive funding and are not designed to provide immediate relief from the devastating effects of natural disasters our area is known to see. There's an expectation that this option is available now, which it is not."

Staff from the Planning and Community Development department as well as Emergency Management will be available next week, Tuesday, October  $16^{th}$  from 4 – 6 p.m. at 805 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC to review potential HMGP opportunities with residents as well as to review requirements for potential eligibility.

The County has created a website to host additional information for residents to review and can be found at: <a href="https://www.pendercountync.gov/pcd/planning-community-development/flood/">https://www.pendercountync.gov/pcd/planning-community-development/flood/</a>

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