

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 3, 2020**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, February 3, 2020 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Dixon, Chairman
Lloyd E. Griffin, III, Vice-Chairman
Cecil Perry
Frankie Meads
Charles H. Jordan
Sean Lavin
Barry Overman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Sparty Hammett, County Manager
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Jeff Dixon. Commissioner Charles Jordan gave the invocation and Commissioner Frankie Meads led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Dixon asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Vice-Chairman Griffin requested the agenda be amended to add the following items recommended by the Finance Committee today: 1) Approval of naming of Senior Center; 2) Approval of Pasquotank River (COA) Boardwalk Renovation, Phase II; 3) Approval of Pritchard Street Storage Warehouse Capital Funding Request; 4) Approval to increase SoundSide Group IT Contract; 5) Approval of Weeksville Water Plant tower lease with U.S. Cellular; 6) Approval of funding for geese eradication program; and 7) Add Closed Session per [N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(5)] to establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the price or terms of a contract concerning the acquisition of real property.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Charles Jordan to amend the agenda to add items #1-6 to the Consent Agenda and item #7 Closed Session at the end of the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

2. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION HONORING 2019 NORTHEASTERN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM:

Chairman Dixon called on Coach Antonio Moore, his fellow coaches, and the senior players to receive a proclamation in honor of Northeastern High School's outstanding football season. He read and then presented the following proclamation to Coach Moore and the NHS varsity football team:

A decorative logo for the word 'Proclamation'. The letter 'P' is large and ornate, with intricate flourishes that extend into the word 'roclamation'. The word 'roclamation' is written in a classic, slightly stylized serif font.

**Honoring the 2019
Northeastern High School
Varsity Football Team**

WHEREAS, the Northeastern High School Football Team, under Coach Antonio Moore and staff, is to be recognized and honored for their outstanding 2019 football season; and

WHEREAS, by its extraordinary efforts, this dynamic team won the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Class 2 A East Regional Championship and ended the season with an amazing record of 12-4; and

WHEREAS, since the 2015 season the Eagles tallied a 61-12 record, 8 straight Northeastern Coastal Conference Championships, with 5 2A Regional Championship appearances and 3 State Championship in the last decade, a 2A Regional Championship and a State Championship game appearance this season; and

WHEREAS, the excellent performance, dedication, and commitment of these young men, along with their coaching staff, have proven to be a source of admiration and inspiration to the citizens of Pasquotank County;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners congratulates Northeastern High School, its football team, its coaches, its athletic department and all people associated with the football team for their outstanding accomplishments and commend them for their display of sportsmanship and leadership.

This the 3rd day of February, 2020.

Coach Moore introduced his coaching staff and seniors. He thanked the Board for supporting Northeastern Athletics. Several of the seniors thanked the Board for honoring their team and coaches, and for supporting them.

3. COMMENTS FROM HOLLY AUDETTE:

Chairman Dixon recognized Ms. Holley Audette of 609 W. Main Street who spoke in support of approving a resolution supporting the rights afforded by the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

4. COMMENTS FROM BILL WARD:

Chairman Dixon called on Mr. Bill Ward of 1713 W. Main Street to address the Board. Mr. Ward said the 2nd Amendment is one of our most basic rights and taking that right away is unconstitutional.

5. COMMENTS BY MARTIN WILLIAMS:

Chairman Dixon recognized Mr. Martin Williams of Elizabeth City who said he is here tonight to show his support for approving the resolution in support of our 2nd Amendment rights. He said any law passed will not be paid attention to by criminals, because guns are not the problem, criminals are the problem. Taking the right away from law abiding citizens will never solve the problem.

6. COMMENTS BY EBEN WILSON:

Chairman Dixon called on Mr. Eben Wilson of 602 Prince William Drive who said we must start at the local level in finding a solution to protect our 2nd Amendment rights.

7. COMMENTS BY GEORGE HAGUE:

Chairman Dixon recognized Mr. George Hague of 2361 Dalia Drive to address the Board. Mr. Hague said he is here tonight to make a statement on behalf of Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest. He said Mr. Forest stands with North Carolina counties to keep their right to keep and bear arms, and when he is Governor this right will never be in jeopardy in our state.

8. COMMENTS BY RON PIPPEN:

Chairman Dixon called on Mr. Ron Phippen of 577 Onley Road to address the Board. Mr. Phippen said people have been defending themselves since the dawn of time, be it with rocks, sticks, bats, etc. He said by taking guns away, you are going to turn good people into bad people.

9. COMMENTS BY BEN BARNHILL:

Chairman Dixon called on Mr. Ben Barnhill of 1355 Blindman Road who said our 2nd Amendment rights are fundamental. He said the situation in Virginia has given rise to great fear in our state. It has sparked a grass roots effort to prevent North Carolina from following in our neighbors' path. He said the resolution sends a clear message that we honor our traditions and believe that the 2nd Amendment is a guarantee of our rights as Americans.

10. COMMENTS BY BEV BARNHILL:

Chairman Dixon called on Ms. Bev Barnhill of 1355 Blindman Road who is a retired police officer. She said with all she has seen in her profession, she should be against guns, but she is not. Citizens have the right to protect themselves.

11. COMMENTS BY MIKE PRITCHARD:

Chairman Dixon called on Mr. Mike Pritchard of 309 W. Main Street who said, many times law abiding citizens stop violent crimes, and guns that are not legally purchased are the cause of a lot of grief.

12. COMMENTS BY CAROL TERRYBERRY:

Chairman Dixon called on Ms. Carol Terryberry of 105 Margaret Drive to address the Board. She said restricting gun ownership by law abiding citizens is unconstitutional, and it is not an effective way to fight crime.

13. COMMENTS BY JOSEPH PERSICO:

Chairman Dixon called on Mr. Joseph Persico of 406 W. Church Street to address the Board. Mr. Persico said there comes a point that the constitution needs to be changed. He does not feel we should take away guns, but he supports common sense gun laws, such as background checks and mental health evaluations.

14. COMMENTS BY WILLIAM ARMSTRONG:

Chairman Dixon called on Mr. William Armstrong of 1162 Loop Run who said he is not against the right to bear arms, but would like to see more regulations on high powered guns.

15. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. *Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2020 Commissioner Meeting*

b. *Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds*

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax releases, tax refunds, and solid waste fee releases:

Tax Releases

		County	City
1.	Dwight Allen Cauley	107.15	
2.	Stockbridge Tanglewood Res, Property Owners Assoc.	2,433.20	2,069.80
3.	Stockbridge Tanglewood Res, Property Owners Assoc.	2,435.20	2,069.80

Tax Refunds

		County	City
1.	Curtis Royal Hinkley	160.04	
2.	Curtis Royal Hinkley	166.55	

Solid Waste Fee Releases

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Nolan Bundy	P6-5	Vacant
2.	Harold S. & Ann Chambers	P35-36	Vacant
3.	Nancy P. Cressman	P141-49	Vacant
4.	Gladys T. Daniels	P127-14	Vacant
5.	G6 Farms LLC	P90-30	Vacant
6.	G6 Farms LLC	P90-33	Vacant
7.	G6 Farms LLC	P38-24	Vacant
8.	Hazel Godfrey	P8A-36	Vacant
9.	Allen & Virginia Godfrey	P8A-35	Vacant
10.	Raymond M. Godfrey, Jr.	P33-35	Vacant
11.	Raymond M. Godfrey, Jr.	P34-9	Vacant
12.	Raymond M. Godfrey, Jr.	P60-26	Vacant
13.	Willie Elnora Hoskins	P63-50	Vacant
14.	Theodore R. & Edna Hudson	79-E-164-165	Vacant
15.	Tony Lewis	23-R-27	Vacant

16.	Bobbie & Miles O. Harris Moore	P120-193	Vacant
17.	Bobbie Moore	76-H-14A	Vacant
18.	Donald E. & Linda Perry	P119-114	Vacant
19.	Phillippe Dr. Respass	12-E-3	Vacant
20.	Sandra G. Smith	P143A-60	Vacant
21.	Glenn & Claudia Spencer	33-E-34	Vacant
22.	M. H. Stevenson, Jr.	P36-40A	Vacant
23.	Alan Eugene Stewart	P111-2	Vacant
24.	William A. Walton Etal	P59-10	Vacant
25.	Gertrude Williams	P111A-18	Vacant

Solid Waste Fee Refunds

1.	Deborah Bunch Etal	12-B-17	Vacant
2.	Deborah Bunch Etal	12-B-18	Vacant

c. *Adoption of Proclamation Celebrating the 100th Birthday of Martin Ferrell Nevins*

The family of Martin Ferrell Nevins is coming to Elizabeth City the weekend of February 2020 to celebrate Mr. Nevins 100th birthday. Commissioner Sean Lavin will present the following proclamation on behalf of the County, congratulating Mr. Nevins on his 100th birthday, and thanking him for his 38 years of outstanding service to the nation:

Proclamation

Celebrating the 100th Birthday of Martin Ferrell Nevins

WHEREAS, Mr. Nevins was born February 15, 1920 and will be honored by friends and relatives on the occasion of his 100th birthday on February 22, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nevins enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in September 1941, retiring as a Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic in May 1962; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nevins started his civilian carrier as an Aircraft Equipment Specialist in July 1962 and through progressive advancement eventually earned the roll of Superintendent in 1967; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, he is credited with:

- Development of HH-52A Helicopter Overhaul specifications and their integration into the Critical Path Method (CPM) network;
- Design of component parts flow system resulting in cost savings well over a million dollars;
- Supervision of aircraft overhaul and component rework operations for more than 12 years during workforce expansions and oversight of multiple workforce expansions and significant work load increases for scheduling and project activities;
- Contributions to the conversion of the manually operated CPM network to a computerized system;
- Instrumental in developing and insuring the success of Stock Number Assembly and parts (SNAP) Program to increase overhaul efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nevins was presented the Distinguished Career Service Award recognizing his 38 years of service with the U.S. Coast Guard;

WHEREAS, after retirement, Mr. Nevins stayed in Elizabeth City and dedicated much of his time towards giving back to the local community, where he was an active Officer in the Kiwanis Club, volunteered for Meal-on-Wheels, tutored adults in reading, writing and basic math, enjoyed boating and fishing, took up golf, and was a parishioner at Holy Family Catholic Church.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DOES HEREBY PROCLAIM its congratulations on the event of the 100th birthday of Mr. Martin Ferrell Nevins and thanks him for his 38 years of outstanding service to the nation.

This the 22nd day of February, 2020.

d. Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Execution of Public Beach & Estuarine Access Grant Contract

The Finance Committee has recommended adoption of the following resolution, which authorizes Execution of the Public Beach & Estuarine Access Grant Contract whereby it approves the County Manager and the Clerk to the Board be authorized to sign and execute the contract:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXECUTION OF PUBLIC BEACH & ESTUARINE ACCESS GRANT CONTRACT

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE Board of Commissioners of Pasquotank County, North Carolina.

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Pasquotank County was held in the Pasquotank County Courthouse, the regular meeting place, on February 3, 2020. There were seven commissioners present.

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners was advised that a proposed contract between Pasquotank County and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for Public Beach & Estuarine Access grant funds was presented for the project known as Pasquotank County Pasquotank River Pubic Access Improvement Phase III and discussed; that, under the terms of the said contract, Pasquotank County will pay a total of \$8,611 local cash match and \$250 in-kind as its local share of the total project costs.

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE Board of Commissioners of Pasquotank County:

That a contract between Pasquotank County and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality is hereby approved.

That the Manager and the Clerk be hereby authorized to sign and execute the said contract for and on behalf of the Pasquotank County and forward the same to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality.

That upon final execution, a copy of said contract be filed with the minutes. Upon motion of _____, seconded by _____, said resolution was passed unanimously.

I, Lynn B. Scott, Clerk of the Board of Pasquotank County, North Carolina do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of so much of the proceedings of the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held on February 3, 2020 as related to the contract between Pasquotank County and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, relative to the Pasquotank County Pasquotank River Public Access Improvement Phase III for the Pasquotank County, North Carolina.

WITNESS my hand and the corporate seal of the said Pasquotank County, North Carolina this the _____ day of _____, 20____.

e. Approval to Transfer Vehicle Title to College of the Albemarle

The Board previously financed a 2015 passenger van (VIN# 1FBZX2CM1FKA92492) for College of the Albemarle. The debt has been extinguished and staff recommended that the vehicle title be transferred to COA. Once the title is transferred, the vehicle can be removed from the County's insurance. The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the request.

f. Approval of Maintenance Contract for Central Communications, EMS, and Sheriff's Department

The Finance Committee has recommend renewal of the annual maintenance contract with Central Square in the amount of \$55,091.10 (excluding tax) for software applications for Central Communications, EMS, and the Sheriff's Department. The contract is included in the 2019-2020 budget.

g. Approval of Grass-Mowing Bids for Commerce Park

Bids were opened on December 11, 2019 for grass-mowing in the Commerce Park for 2020, 2021, and 2022. Three bids were received. The Finance Committee has recommended that a three-year contract be awarded to #1 Lawn Cutting & Landscaping based on their bid of \$65 per acre, plus \$500 for mowing the ditch bank slopes twice a year, for a total of \$3,912.50 per year.

h. Approval to Establish a Drainage Advisory Committee

The Finance Committee has recommended approval to establish a Drainage Advisory Committee. The Committee will consist of the following voting members:

- One voting member from the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners;
- One voting member from the Pasquotank County Soil and Water Conservation District; and
- One voting member from the following five Pasquotank County Drainage Districts: Newland/Perquimans River; Knobbs Creek/Upper Pasquotank; Upper Little River; Lower Little River; and Newbegun/Flatty Creek.

i. Approval of Naming of New Senior Center

The Board of Commissioners approved City staff's recommendation to rename the Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Senior Center the Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Active Living Center on January 13th. Elizabeth City Council conducted a public hearing regarding naming the center on January 27th. Based upon input from the senior citizens in attendance, City Council unanimously approved a motion to not change the name of the Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Senior Center. The Finance Committee reconsidered the Board's January 13th vote to rename the center and recommends continuing use the current name – Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Senior Center.

j. Approval of Pasquotank River (COA) Boardwalk Renovation, Phase II

The County has received approval for a Contract Amendment Request for the COA Boardwalk project Phase II from the Division of Coastal Management, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. The bids for the project exceeded the project budget of \$93,335 (\$84,000 grant amount). The approved amendment decreased the scope of the grant contract down to renovation of approximately 725 linear feet of boardwalk trail along the Pasquotank River to enable the project to be completed within the allocated funding.

Staff sent revised bid requests to the two original responding companies, and on January 15th, one bid was received from Sawyer Residential and Marine Construction in the amount of \$73,216. The Finance Committee has recommended approval to award the Pasquotank River (COA) Boardwalk Renovation, Phase II project to Sawyer Residential and Marine Construction in the amount of \$73,216.

k. Approval of Pritchard Street Storage Warehouse – Capital Funding Request

Staff solicited bids to convert the former School Bus Shed/Drug Task Force Building on Pritchard Street to meet the County's public safety equipment storage needs. Individual bids for the project components are listed below, with a total project cost of \$99,859 (which includes a 10% contingency). This approach will clean up an eyesore and utilize an existing county asset to meet a major capital need. The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the Pritchard Street Storage Warehouse project for a total cost of \$99,859 using capital reserve funds.

Roof and walls - recovering	\$34,022	Carolina Roofing
Trees cut, ground and removed	\$14,200	Out on A Limb
Side building demolition & removal	\$ 8,400	Out on A limb
Fencing repair & installation of slats	\$ 7,970	Albemarle Fence
Overhead doors installed (7)	\$10,889	Northeastern Garage Door

Building upgrade (new garage door openings to be installed, one wall to be built and four walls to be removed)	<u>\$15,300</u>	Bradford Corporation
Total Bids	\$90,781	
Contingency (10%)	<u>\$ 9,078</u>	
Total Project Cost	\$99,859	

l. Approval to Increase The SoundSide Group IT Contract

The Computer Support Technician II position in the Information Technology Department has been vacant since December 12th, and we have been unable to fill the position. We have an ongoing annual contract with The SoundSide Group to provided supplemental IT support services (\$40,800 - 40 hours per month). We currently have \$31,500 available in IT part-time salary funds which could be used to add additional hours of support from The Soundside Group. The Finance Committee has recommend approval to extend Soundside’s contract for an amount not to exceed \$31,500 for Fiscal Year 2019-20 to provide additional IT staffing support until the Computer Support Technician II position is filled.

m. Approval of Weeksville Water Plant Tower Lease with U.S. Cellular

USCOC of Greater North Carolina, LLC (d/b/a U.S. Cellular) is proposing to lease space off the Weeksville Water Plant Tower to install six (6) cellphone antennas. The County currently leases water tower space to Verizon. The proposed lease would give U.S. Cellular an option of twenty-four (24) months with a rent payment of \$1,800 per month during the option period. If the option is exercised, the company would have an initial five (5) year term with a rent payment of \$2,000 per month. Three (3) additional five (5) year extensions are in the proposed lease, with a 15% escalation clause for each renewal term. A thirty (30) day notice will have to be given before final approval. The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the lease.

n. Approval of Funding for Geese Eradication Program

The City Finance Committee previously approved a \$7,500 contribution toward the Geese Eradication Program as recommended by the City Manager (not the requested \$12,500 – 50% of the program cost). City Council voted 5-3 on January 27th to deny funding the program. A representative from the USDA was present at the City Finance Committee meeting to answer questions; however, similar to 2018, the USDA was not allowed to present to the City Council. The City Manager’s representation of the issue at the January 27th City Council meeting revolved solely around geese being a problem for farmers, which is only a portion of the complete picture. The complete problem as presented by the USDA to the Board of Commissioners on December 2, 2019 includes:

- Producers/growers experience significant crop losses
- Business owners have nuisance and damage problems
 - Droppings in parking lots and on sidewalks
 - Aggressive geese defending their goslings or nest site
 - Detention basin bank erosion
- Public areas may have the same problems but also:
 - Parks where kids play,
 - Schools
 - From feet, to hands...to mouths...
- Public safety concerns
 - Geese induced motor vehicle accidents
- Homeowners
 - Lawns defecated on
 - Landscaping eaten
 - Mess of feathers and feces

Based on the impact of the problem to our citizens throughout the City and County, the Finance Committee has recommended approval to:

- (1) Move forward to fund the Geese Eradication program for 2020 at \$25,000 using Nondepartmental funds; and

- (2) Request that City Council reconsider the request for 50% funding assistance after the USDA representative presents to City Council the same PowerPoint presented to the County.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Charles Jordan to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

16. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD AND COMMITTEES:

Commissioner Jordan presented the following recommendations from the Appointments Committee for appointments to boards and committees:

Tourism Development Authority – Appoint Mayor Pro Tem Johnnie Walton as the City Council representative, to fill the unexpired term of Councilwoman Jeannie Young, as recommended by the City of Elizabeth City.

ABC Board – Reappoint Anthony Jerome Turner to an additional four-year term. Mr. Turner is the Joint City-County appointee and the County and City must both confirm.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Barry Overman to approve the appointment and reappointment to boards and committee, as recommended by the Appointments Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

17. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS AFFORDED BY THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE US CONSTITUTION:

Chairman Dixon explained that the County received several resolutions that have been approved by other counties across North Carolina, some of which infringe on local law enforcement agencies. He explained that North Carolina Sheriffs are elected and are the most powerful officer in each county. Secondly, he said, the Board has no jurisdiction over the Elizabeth City Police Department. Therefore, the resolution submitted for consideration tonight does not state that Pasquotank County will become a sanctuary county.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Sean Lavin to approve the following resolution supporting the rights afforded by the 2nd amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RIGHTS AFFORDED BY THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States is the Supreme Law of our nation; *and*

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution states, “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed;” *and*

WHEREAS, Article 1, Sec. 30 in the North Carolina Constitution states, “A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed;” *and*

WHEREAS, it is further recognized that the Second Amendment to the Constitution guarantees that *individuals* have the right to keep and bear arms in a manner that shall not be infringed; *and*

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States has, through multiple rulings, upheld an individual's right to keep and bear arms when federal, state, and local laws have sought to restrict this right; *and*

WHEREAS, the right to bear arms is a fundamental right for self-defense, the defense of others including family members, the protection of individual liberty, and for the preservation of our United States and the Constitution; *and*

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that the right of individuals to keep and bear arms is under attack in the United States of America by elected officials from multiple levels of Government; *and*

WHEREAS, the illegal misuse of firearms is not a reason to infringe upon the Constitutional rights of the law-abiding citizens of Pasquotank County; *and*

WHEREAS, the members of the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners have taken an oath to defend and uphold the Constitutions of the United States and of North Carolina; *and*

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners wishes to express its deep and abiding commitment to protecting all Constitutional rights of Pasquotank County Citizens and stands opposed to any law, regulation, or other act that would unconstitutionally infringe on the citizens' second Amendment Rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners declares that it stands as a county that will respect, protect and defend the Second Amendment rights of Pasquotank County's Citizens. The board will oppose, within the limits of the Constitutions of the United States and the State of North Carolina, any efforts to unconstitutionally restrict such rights, and to use such constitutional means at its disposal to protect the rights of its citizens to keep and bear arms.

FURTHERMORE, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners implores the United States Congress and North Carolina Legislature to preserve, uphold, and protect the rights of all law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms under the United States Constitution and reject any provision, law, or regulation that may infringe, have the tendency to infringe, or place any additional burdens on those rights.

Adopted this 3rd day of February, 2020, by the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners.

Vice-Chairman Griffin reminded the audience that the Board can support their wishes today; however once it goes to Raleigh or Washington, DC, things can change.

Commissioner Perry said he took an oath to support the Constitution of the United States of America many years ago. He will support the constitution, but he will not support this resolution, because he feels the Country needs time to think about how to solve this problem. He believes citizens have the right to bear arms, but he also believes there needs to be changes, such as Mr. Persico stated earlier. He stated that many of his constituents feel the same way he does.

Commissioner Meads said he supports the resolution. He realizes the Board does not make law, but they can let the public know where they stand. He said this resolution will help the leaders in Raleigh know that the people in Eastern North Carolina do not want the government to interfere with their guns.

Commissioner Lavin noted that he received many letters, phone calls, and Facebook messages regarding this topic. He holds the 2nd Amendment in high regard and he feels that it is the foundation of freedom in this county. He differs from some of his colleagues in that he does not believe North Carolina has a right to infringe upon our right to bear arms, which is implicit in the constitution. He said it is not the governments' right to separate us from our basic human rights. He believes that gun control has never been about guns, but is about controlling large amounts of people in a space where they do not have the ability to defend themselves or the things that they believe in. He said he will be voting for the resolution and actually does not think it goes far enough, because he would like to see some more forceful language in it.

Commissioner Overman said he agrees with Commissioner Lavin. He said it is a shame that we must resolute to keep the laws that we already have, but that is where we are as a nation unfortunately. Someone in Raleigh told him several years ago, that politics start at the local level. It grieves him that our nation is going through what it is at this time, where this is looked at as the gun doing the damage and not the person. He stated that social media has created a nightmare for us. He said if we are going to grow as a county, we need to learn how to disagree and get along. While he does not agree with someone's opinion, he completely respects their opinion as a person, because that is how we work it out. It would kill his soul if his wife could not defend his home and children when he is not there.

Commissioner Jordan agrees with much that has been said here tonight. He knows that we need protection in our homes for our families. He also feels we need to work together to solve the problem that is at hand and not be on one side or the other.

The motion carried six to one, with Commissioner Perry voting against the motion.

18. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Overman reported that he attended the monthly DSS Board meeting. The Community Relations Commission Annual Witherspoon-Harris Community Contribution Recognition Awards will be take place on Saturday, February 29th from 6-8 PM at the Weeksville Lions Club. Deadline for submission of nominations is Friday, January 17th.

Commissioner Jordan attended the Regional Library Board meeting, the Library Board meeting, the Jail Board meeting, the Annual Chamber of Commissioner Banquet, and the Solid Waste/Landfill Committee meeting.

Vice-Chairman Griffin provided an update of activities at the Airport and Albemarle Commission. He noted that Albemarle Commission has started the process for hiring a new director.

Commissioner Lavin attended the Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet, the Chamber of Commerce Board meeting, the Economic Development Board meeting, and the Countywide tour with COA President, Dr. Jack Bagwell.

Commissioner Meads attended the Solid Waste/Landfill Committee meeting.

Commissioner Perry attended the Health Board meeting, the Jail Board meeting, and the JCPC Board meeting. He said he is very proud of the Northeastern High School football team and the way they represent our community.

Chairman Dixon reminded the Board of the upcoming retreat on February 28th.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded Frankie Meads to enter Closed Session per [N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5)] to establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the price or terms of a contract concerning the acquisition of real property. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon the end of Closed Session;

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Charles Jordan that the Board return to Regular Session. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Frankie Meads to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD