

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
FEBRUARY 4, 2013**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, February 4, 2013 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jeff Dixon, Chairman  
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Vice-Chairman  
Lloyd E. Griffin, III  
Cecil Perry  
Dr. William R. Sterritt  
Gary G. White  
Frankie Meads

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Randy Keaton, County Manager  
Rodney Bunch, Assistant County Manager  
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney  
Karen Jennings, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Jeff Dixon. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Chairman Dixon led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Dixon welcomed the dignitaries and guests who were in attendance.

**1. INTRODUCTION OF JOHN WOODARD:**

Chairman Dixon welcomed and recognized Mr. John Woodard, liaison for Representative Bob Steinburg and Senator Bill Cook. Mr. Woodard explained that Representative Steinburg and Senator Cook are deep in their legislative duties now and county boards of commissioners all over the district are looking to them to provide assistance with issues of importance to counties that involve the Legislature. He stated that they have asked him to serve as their liaison in the local area. Mr. Woodard said if there are questions or issues of importance the Board would like to discuss with either Representative Steinburg or Senator Cook, he should be contacted and he will contact them and get answers or arrange a meeting with the legislators. He noted that while the General Assembly is in session Fridays are about the only days they will be available to take care of local constituent matters. He stated that he and Chairman Dixon have discussed arranging a meeting on February 15 at 10:00 AM with Representative Steinburg and Senator Cook to hear legislative concerns from the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Dixon said he has reached out to the Mayor because he feels it would be good to have a joint meeting with the City Council and the legislators. He stated that he also thinks Representative Mobley should be invited. Mr. Woodard stated that he will set up the meeting with Representative Steinburg and Senator Cook. Staff will contact Representative Mobley.

**2. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO PASQUOTANK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR PASSING A SMOKE/TOBACCO FREE POLICY:**

Chairman Dixon recognized Mr. Tim Brown, Youth Tobacco Prevention Coordinator for Albemarle Regional Health Services; Lisa Phillips, Coordinator for the Community Transformation Grant Project for Region 9; and Jill Jordan with Albemarle Regional Health Services. Mr. Brown explained that his main role is to prevent tobacco use in teens in the seven county region. He said this is done by empowering youth to take part in training, speaking and presentations to youth groups and peer to peer education. He stated that he also works toward educating parents, teachers, and the community on the dangers of secondhand smoke. He said it is known that secondhand smoke contains 250 chemicals known to be toxic or carcinogenic. Mr. Brown said it also known according to the Surgeon General's report that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. He noted that secondhand smoke can cause lung cancer, heart disease, and acute respiratory problems. Mr. Brown presented the Board with a smoke free/tobacco free certificate of appreciation. He said the certificate is in recognition of the Board's leadership to prohibit smoking and the use of tobacco products in Pasquotank County buildings and to provide for the health, safety and welfare of citizens and county employees

accessing county offices and the courts. Chairman Dixon thanked Mr. Brown for the certificate on behalf of Pasquotank County.

Ms. Lisa Phillips explained that the North Carolina Division of Public Health was awarded \$7.4 million per year over the next five years to help communities make healthy living easier in North Carolina. She said the grant is part of the United States Department of Health and Human Services Community Transformation Grant to help support public health efforts to reduce chronic disease, promote healthier lifestyles, reduce health disparities, and control healthcare spending in North Carolina. They are working with state and local partners to decrease tobacco use, increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and increase access to evidence-based clinical preventive measures. Ms. Phillips stated that Region 9 is made up of 15 counties in Northeastern North Carolina and this project is organized on a regional basis to maximize the efforts reached throughout the state. She said there are 10 multi-county collaboratives and each one has a local lead health department that has assumed responsibility for recording any efforts and providing infrastructure for the funding. She stated that she is pleased to say that Albemarle Regional Health Services is the lead health department for Region 9 and they have been charged with developing a regional plan to implement the following strategies: Increasing new, revised comprehensive plans that include health considerations; joint use agreements that increase access to physical activity opportunities; new or enhanced farmers markets, mobile markets and farm stands; and smoke-free local government buildings and indoor public places. She again thanked the Board for adopting the ordinance prohibiting smoking in Pasquotank County buildings and providing for the health, safety and welfare of citizens and county employees accessing these buildings and the courthouse. She said it is known that tobacco and/or smoke-free policies provide a safer, healthier, cleaner, more productive workplace and they do not cost a dime. She noted that currently 85 counties in the State of North Carolina have passed tobacco-free or smoke-free ordinances for their buildings.

### **3. UPDATE ON VISION 2020:**

Chairman Dixon called on Elizabeth City Mayor Joe Peel and Bishop Ernest Sutton to give an update on Vision 2020. Mayor Peel stated that a steering committee of about 95 people has met four times over the last three and one-half months. He said two of the meetings focused on economic development and two focused on community development. He stated that this whole initiative was started to try to provide and bring more wealth into our community which currently has an unemployment rate of over 10% and a high poverty rate. He said the initiative is an attempt to try to improve the community and identify some areas where the community can be more marketable and attract jobs. He explained that the job of the steering committee was to identify critical success factors in the two areas. He said the five factors under economic development included: K-12 education, waterfront, downtown, business climate, and economic development.

Bishop Sutton stated that although the Mayor has championed Vision 2020 on the city's behalf, he feels it will benefit the entire county. He reported that the four factors identified under community development include: championing diversity, building strong families, 0-5 & pre-K opportunities, and youth job & entrepreneur training. He stated that building strong families is a key to success because if families are stronger there will be less crime. He said all of these factors also play into economic development. Mr. Sutton added that it has been a rich experience to work with the people on the focus group as well as others from the public. He stated that great input and feedback has been provided by people all over the community. He asked the members of the Board to join them and support and be a part of this Vision 2020 process.

Mayor Peel said they are in the process of creating action teams of people for each of the nine areas and they have some outstanding people from the community who have agreed to serve as chairs of each of the committees. He stated that the job of these teams will be to develop measurable goals and strategies for achieving the goals under each of the areas. He said if any members of the Board have interest in being involved in these action teams to let him know and he will see that it happens.

Members of the Board commended Mayor Peel and Bishop Sutton and expressed support for what they are doing. Chairman Dixon stated that the Board wants to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Mayor Peel explained that the City Council, the Board of Commissioners, and the Board of Education all need to be involved in this process.

**4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

Chairman Dixon asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. It was requested that the agenda be amended to add the following items: 1) Recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve a request from the Register of Deeds to use automation funds for preservation of marriage licenses; 2) Recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve a request from the EMS Department for addition of a part-time billing staff position; 3) Recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve funds for urgent roof repairs at Edgewood Center; 4) Recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve a salary for a Chief Water Plant Operator; 5) Recommendation from the Finance Committee to approve a salary for the Deputy Director of Elections.

Motion was made by Joe Winslow, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to amend the agenda to add the five items listed above. The motion carried.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Joe Winslow to add items #1 through #4 above as recommended by the Finance Committee to the Consent Agenda, and to add #5 above to New Business. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Joe Winslow to move new business items 8A, Resolution Supporting Gap Funding for the Mid Currituck Bridge; item 8B, Resolution in Support of Legislative Goals Adopted by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners; and a proposed Resolution Supporting Continued Funding for Museum of the Albemarle to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

*a. Approval of Minutes of January 14 and 15, 2013 Commissioner Meetings*

*b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds*

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

Releases:

		County	City
1.	Retta Hooper Brock		169.29
2.	Karen Bell Allison		114.59
3.	Jessica Williams Christopher	112.16	
4.	Joshua Hayden Mitcheltree	120.16	95.12
5.	Donald Williams Goldsworthy	178.06	147.16
6.	Donald Williams Goldsworthy	123.63	103.70
7.	Eric Lynn Hopper	125.12	
8.	Richard Bradley Fertig	176.76	
9.	Ernest Yates Anderson	161.26	
10.	Melburn Ralph Dayton	107.26	
11.	Robert James Hovanec	132.06	104.05
12.	Horace C. Pritchard Sr. Etal	599.70	

Refunds:

1.	Horace C. Pritchard Sr. Etal (2011)	599.70
2.	Horace C. Pritchard Sr. Etal (2010)	588.68

Solid Waste Releases:

Owner's Name	Parcel ID Number	Reason for Release
Marjorie Ann Berry	P64-52A	House not livable
Linda Bridgeman Etal	P6-26	House needs repairs
Melba Bridgeman	P7-16	House needs repairs
Iris Ann Bundy L.f. Est.	P87-10	Vacant
Harold Chambers	P35-56	House not livable
Pleasant Banks Flowers L.f. Est.	P112-90	House needs repairs
Raymond M. Godfrey, Jr.	P34-9	House not livable

Richard T. & Barbara A. McCombe	P89A-67	House not livable
Bobbie G. Moore	76-H-14A	House needs repairs
Bobbie G. Moore & Miles O. Harris	P120-193	House not livable
William Alvin Norfleet	P120-179	House vacant 6 years
Donald E. & Linda Perry	P119-114	House needs repairs
Richard Wade Reid	P33-33	House needs repair
Richard Wade Reid	P33-33A	House not livable
Donnie & Cheryl Russell	P7-26A	House needs repairs
Edward F. Jr. & Ruth Self	P111-22	Vacant

Solid Waste Refunds:

Owner's Name	Parcel ID Number	Reason for Release
Marshall H. Stevenson	P36-40	Vacant since 2010

- c. Approval of Late Property Exemption or Exclusion Application  
The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a late property exemption or exclusion application from Elizabeth City State University for two aircraft. The tax amount to be excluded is \$3,549.50.
- d. Appointment of Albert Butts to the Economic Improvement Council  
The Board Appointments Committee has recommended the appointment of Albert Butts to the Economic Improvement Council to replace Lenora Spence who has resigned.
- e. Approval of CDBG Citizen Participation Plan  
The Board needs to adopt an updated CDBG Citizen Participation plan which is a requirement for the ongoing 2010 CDBG Scattered Site Project.
- f. Approval of Surplus Items for Sale on GovDeals  
The Board of Elections has 68 old voting booths in storage that are no longer needed. The booths were used with the previous voting machines and are not compatible with the current voting equipment. It has been requested that they be declared surplus so they can be sold on GovDeals.
- g. Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Removal of Certain Public Record Books Kept by the Register of Deeds  
The Board has been requested by the Register of Deeds Office to adopt the following resolution which will authorize the removal of marriage licenses from May 1948 to December 1949 for repair, restoration, and rebinding:
- RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REMOVAL OF CERTAIN PUBLIC RECORD BOOKS  
KEPT BY THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
REPAIR, RESTORATION AND REBINDING**
- WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-7 provides that books of public records should be copied or repaired, renovated or rebound if worn, mutilated, damaged or difficult to read; and
- WHEREAS, there are identified certain books of public records maintained by the Register of Deeds in need of repair, restoration and rebinding; and
- WHEREAS, Kofile Preservation, formerly known as Brown's River Records Preservation Services is under contract to provide repair, restoration and rebinding of those certain books of public records.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, that:
- Section 1. The Register of Deeds is authorized to remove or cause to be removed to the care and custody of Kofile Preservation, Document Preservation Specialists for repair, restoration and rebinding the following books of public records:
- Marriage Licenses from May 1948 - December 1948  
Marriage Licenses from January 1949 - December 1949
- Section 2. The books of public records listed in Section 1 of this resolution may remain in the care and custody of Kofile Preservation, Document Preservation Specialists for the length of time required to repair, restore or rebind them.

Section 3. This resolution is effective upon its adoption.

Adopted the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013

- h. Approval of Request from the Register of Deeds to Use Automation Funds for Preservation of Marriage Licenses*  
The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a request from the Register of Deeds to use \$15,470 from the Automation Fund to fund the preservation of 3,094 marriage licenses from 1948 to 1949.
- i. Approval of Request from the EMS Department for Addition of Part-Time Billing Staff Position*  
The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a request from the EMS Department for a part-time billing staff position. The annual cost for the part-time position is approximately \$14,500 and the cost for the remainder of the current fiscal year is \$3,600.
- j. Approval of Funds for Urgent Roof Repairs at Edgewood Center*  
The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board hire Gordon Roofing to repair a portion of the roof at Edgewood Center over the Monarch offices at a cost not to exceed \$19,200.
- k. Approval of Salary for Chief Water Plant Operator*  
The Finance Committee has recommended a salary of Grade 20, Step 6, \$40,029, for a Chief Water Plant Operator.
- l. Adoption of Resolution Supporting Gap Funding for the Mid-Currituck Bridge*  
The Board was requested to adopt the following resolution supporting Gap Funding for the Mid-Currituck Bridge:

**RESOLUTION  
SUPPORTING GAP FUNDING FOR THE MID CURRITUCK BRIDGE**

WHEREAS, for over twenty years the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners has recognized that a Mid-Currituck Bridge across the Currituck Sound would serve a vital need for the residents and visitors of North Carolina's Outer Banks; and

WHEREAS, a Mid-Currituck Bridge would provide efficient beach access, reduce congestion, alleviate delays, promote economic development, and enhance public safety; and

WHEREAS, during hurricanes and other emergencies, the Mid-Currituck Bridge would provide an important evacuation route as an alternative to Highway 12, which is a narrow two-lane road that is already filled to capacity during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, a Mid-Currituck Bridge would not only improve public safety, but would increase access for students and an adequate labor force to help meet the ever increasing needs of the Outer Banks; and

WHEREAS, this bridge has been in the planning stages for more than twenty years and funding sources have been identified including "Gap Funding" that would not adversely harm the state's budget in providing this much needed transportation infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners that: the North Carolina General Assembly move forward with "Gap Funding" for the Mid-Currituck Bridge, which has been authorized and included in previous North Carolina budgets as a matter of economic development and public safety.

ADOPTED this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.

- m. Adoption of Resolution in Support of Legislative Goals Adopted by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners*  
The Board was requested to adopt the following resolution which would support the legislative goals that were recently adopted at the NCAACC 2013 Legislative Goals Conference.

**RESOLUTION  
IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE GOALS ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners was founded in 1908 as a membership organization to represent the interests of counties before the General Assembly;

WEREAS, all 100 counties are voluntary members of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, making the NCACC the official voice of North Carolina counties;

WHEREAS, every two years, the membership of the NCACC develops and approves a package of legislative proposals designed to protect and enhance the interests of county governments and the citizens who live in our 100 counties;

WHEREAS, the process to generate this package of legislative goals is deliberate and inclusive and provides extensive opportunities for counties to be involved;

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County is an active participant within the NCACC and participated in the process to develop these legislative proposals;

WHEREAS, more than 200 county officials representing 88 counties gathered in Durham County on Jan. 24-25, 2013, and debated and ultimately approved 60 proposals submitted by counties to be included in the legislative goals package;

WHEREAS, the attached proposals represent the collective wishes of all 100 counties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners adopts this resolution in support of the legislative proposals adopted by the NCACC membership at its 2013 Legislative Goals Conference;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the General Assembly representing Pasquotank County to let them know of our support for these issues.

Adopted this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.

n. *Adoption of Resolution Supporting Continued Funding for Museum of the Albemarle*  
The Board was requested to adopt the following resolution supporting continued funding for Museum of the Albemarle:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONTINUED FUNDING  
FOR MUSEUM OF THE ALBEMARLE**

WHEREAS, Museum of the Albemarle serves a 13 county area that spans Northeastern North Carolina and is one of six divisional museums of the North Carolina Museum of History; and

WHEREAS, Museum of the Albemarle opened its first museum on May 29, 1967 in the old Highway Patrol building south of Elizabeth City; and

WHEREAS, by 1987 the museum's collection was overflowing and there was a critical need for a larger facility that would allow for the proper housing and display of the region's precious collections and a decision was made to seek a larger facility; and

WHEREAS, property was donated for a site and following a fundraising campaign and delays due to state budget shortfalls, a new 50,000 square foot museum was constructed using local and state resources; and

WHEREAS, the new Museum of the Albemarle opened on April 8, 2006 and is a wonderful facility that includes large public gathering areas, meeting and conference rooms, a 200 seat auditorium, 11,000 square feet of lobby and galleries, and 3,500 square feet of collection storage; and

**WHEREAS**, the museum is a regional resource center that houses historically significant regional artifacts and state-of-the-art displays that provide rare opportunities for inquiry and learning; and

**WHEREAS**, some of the current exhibits which are quite significant for our area include “Our Story: Life in the Albemarle”, “Out of the Blue: Coast Guard Aviation”, “Under Both Flags: Civil War in the Albemarle”; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past 45 years, Museum of the Albemarle has shown hundreds of exhibits, collected, displayed and cared for thousands of regional artifacts, conducted hundreds of educational programs, given general tours to thousands of regional school children, and educated, entertained and showed off the amazing history of the Albemarle Area; and

**WHEREAS**, Museum of the Albemarle has become a vital resource for our area;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners supports funding for continued operation of Museum of the Albemarle and requests the Governor and General Assembly to include full funding in the state’s 2013-14 budget for Museum of the Albemarle.

**ADOPTED** this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Gary White to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion carried.

The following tax releases have been approved by the Finance Officer:

Releases:

		County	City
1.	Jules Joseph Helleu	16.68	
2.	Brian Paul Greig	8.43	
3.	Brian Paul Greig	40.36	
4.	Dorothy Ann Ryan Bland	40.18	30.14
5.	Daniel Edward Mates	48.48	41.36
6.	Matthew Wray Rhodes	41.04	37.77
7.	Krystle Marie Rodriguez	82.58	66.94
8.	Krystle Marie Rodriguez	52.39	45.27
9.	Roxana Pena	99.57	
10.	Rita Carver Banks	6.14	4.61
11.	Elizabeth City State University		1.63
12.	Michael Cameren Mace	3.10	
13.	Keith Glenn Arnold	63.30	
14.	Stanoy Lanae Harrell	30.50	19.40
15.	Terri Ann Perry	9.21	
16.	Etosha Shante Spence	41.98	31.48
17.	Richard Gay Favreau	9.68	
18.	Bradley James Gardner	8.31	6.64
19.	Patricia Marie Bryant	11.94	
20.	Jill Andrea Overton	40.30	
21.	John Isaac Huie	67.80	
22.	Cynthia Jean Chapman	13.95	
23.	Michael R. Sarniak, Jr.	83.82	
24.	Dimitrie Devon Felton	8.25	
25.	Thomas Michael Waite	71.12	
26.	Claudia Faye Starns	62.62	
27.	Yvonne Estelle Price	35.44	
28.	James David Pena	24.30	
29.	Erik Matthew Rinkle		35.10
30.	Erik Matthew Rinkel		60.10

31.	Dashland Properties LLC		67.50
32.	Adelyn Gerodias Houtz	10.98	8.77
33.	Tiffany Dionne Thompson		90.98
34.	Dina Ann Grubbs	5.71	4.56
35.	Catherine Frances Cole	18.60	14.85
36.	Gregory Leonard Kulbertis	25.67	
37.	Christopher Bennett Braddy	30.07	
38.	Swain & Temple, Inc.	10.23	
39.	Jessica Ann Salupo	57.97	51.28
40.	Jason Jermain Short	13.39	10.04

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DISSOLUTION OF THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMDEN COUNTY, ALBEMARLE HOSPITAL, ALBEMARLE MENTAL HEALTH, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTY:**

The Board reviewed a proposed dissolution agreement for the property in Camden County that was jointly owned by Albemarle Mental Health, Camden County, Albemarle Hospital, and Pasquotank County. County Attorney Mike Cox explained that a few years back when the Department of Transportation was getting easements in Camden County for the widening of U.S. 158 it was discovered that the one-third that was owned by Albemarle Hospital had not been transferred to Pasquotank County. He said this is in the process of being corrected. He stated that this was about the same time that Albemarle Mental Health Center was being dissolved. All of its property should have been transferred to East Carolina Behavioral Health and this parcel was not transferred. Mr. Cox said a special act of the General Assembly was required to try to transfer the property to ECBH since Albemarle Mental Health was no longer in existence and there was no one authorized to sign documents on its behalf. He stated that the Interlocal Agreement among the four parties states that the property cannot be transferred unless all parties agree. He said this agreement needs to first be dissolved after which the Hospital's one-third interest can be transferred to the county. Mr. Cox requested that the Board approve the dissolution agreement.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Gary White to approve dissolution of the Interlocal Agreement between Albemarle Mental Health, Camden County, Albemarle Hospital, and Pasquotank County with Albemarle Hospital conveying its one-third interest in property along U.S. 158 in Camden County to Pasquotank County. The motion carried unanimously.

**7. APPROVAL OF SALARY FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS:**

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a salary for the Deputy Director of Elections at Grade 13, Step 1, \$26,163, with an increase to Step 3, \$27,658, after nine months with a favorable evaluation.

Commissioner Cecil Perry stated that he represents the minority district and he knows the Board's only obligation is to fund the Board of Elections. He said he wants the record to show that he is not in favor of funding any parts of the Board of Elections without having minority representation. He stated that in a county with a 40% minority population it makes no sense to him to have no minority employees in the Elections Office. He added that he would hope the Board would offer encouragement to employ residents of Pasquotank County so that some of the tax money can stay in the county.

Commissioner William Sterritt said the problem is that the process is wrong. He stated that all the Commissioners are being asked to do is to approve the salary and the Board of Elections has the authority to hire whoever they want so they do not have to follow the Board's rules. He said the Board needs to think about the process. It was noted that to change the process would require action by the General Assembly.

Commissioner Frankie Meads stated that the only things the Commissioners can do is control the purse and he thinks those people who are doing the hiring should find out what is in the purse before they hire someone.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin noted that the Board of Elections is made up of individuals that are not appointed by the Board of Commissioners. He said one of the three members is a minority



and he could have voiced his concern if he felt another candidate should have been selected for the vacant position. He stated that the Board of Elections brought forward a candidate it felt had the experience to be the Deputy Director of Elections and who could move into the Director position at a later time.

Vice-Chairman Winslow said he is concerned about the order of this. He said this is the second time the Board has been involved in a situation where the person has been hired and the Board is later asked to determine a salary. He stated that he would think the salary would have been part of the procedure of hiring someone rather than after someone has been hired.

County Manager Randy Keaton explained that the Board of Elections is a separate body and makes its own decisions similar to the Social Services Board that hires and fires the Director of Social Services. He said in this case the Board of Elections had made its selection and was just asking the Board to approve a salary above the hiring rate. He stated it would not have come before the Board if a salary above the hiring rate were not being requested. He said the Board of Elections felt the qualifications justified the higher salary. He stated in the case of a regular county employee, staff would request approval of the salary before an offer was made.

Motion was made by Joe Winslow, seconded by Frankie Meads to approve a starting salary of \$26,163 for the Deputy Director of Elections with an increase to Step 3, \$27,658 after nine months with a favorable evaluation. The motion carried unanimously.

**8. REPORT FROM COUNTY MANAGER:**

County Manager Randy Keaton reported that the signed agreement for library services with the changes made by the county has been received from Camden County. He said this agreement covers this fiscal year as well as the renewal period if Camden chooses to renew for next year.

Mr. Keaton stated that at the last meeting the Board discussed drafting a resolution to correct what the General Assembly did last year regarding the appointments to the East Carolina Behavioral Health Board. He said in looking at the legislative goals that were adopted by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, one of the goals directly addresses that issue. He noted that the goal is to seek legislation to restore local autonomy to the LME governance structure to be sure that each county will be allowed to appoint at a minimum one County Commissioner to its local LME board. Senate Bill 191, which was enacted last year, sets a maximum size limitation of 21 members on the LME board and stipulates that board membership composition for 10 of these members will be specific consumer, health, insurance, and finance disciplines. Currently counties participating in an LME with at least 12 county members cannot be assured of appointing one of its Commissioners to represent its interests. The proposed legislation would dictate that whatever the Board size is that each county would be allowed to appoint one Commissioner. The Board asked the County Manager to send a letter to legislators referencing and supporting this NCACC goal.

Mr. Keaton advised that he and the Assistant County Manager will be out of town on Wednesday and Thursday of this week attending the annual County Managers Conference.

**9. REPORT FROM ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER:**

Assistant County Manager Rodney Bunch stated that he will be attending a meeting on February 12 in Raleigh on NC Clean Energy Business Alliance Policy & Regulatory Update. He noted that the Mayor, the Economic Developer and possibly Chairman Dixon will also be attending the meeting.

**10. CALENDAR:**

The Clerk reviewed the calendar of upcoming meetings/events. She reminded everyone of the public hearing tomorrow evening at 6:00 PM at College of The Albemarle Auditorium on the proposals that have been received in response to the Hospital RFP. It was noted that the format of the public hearing will be the same as the last public hearing at COA.

**11. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

County Attorney Mike Cox stated that the Board of Commissioners sits as the Animal Control Board and has previously heard an appeal from Sabrina Parrish regarding the Sheriff's Department's determination that her dog, Casper, is a dangerous dog. The Board had delayed a

decision on the appeal pending the relocation of Casper and had requested an update at tonight's meeting. Mr. Cox stated that the Sheriff has advised him that Casper has not yet been adopted. He said he will be bringing this matter back to the Board for some type of disposition in the near future.

Mr. Cox reported that he will be out town this Friday and Saturday attending the County Attorneys Winter Conference.

#### **12. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Frankie Meads stated that he has felt welcomed on the Board of Commissioners, has not been shunned as the newspaper may have reported that he would be, and he has felt like one of the group. He said everyone has been very courteous to him. He reported that he attended the school for new County Commissioners in New Bern last week and felt the Clerk prepared him very well to go. Commissioner Meads thanked the members of the Board for working with him and said he believes together they can improve county government in the next four years and reduce the county's debt.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin reported that he is still working in New Jersey surveying boats damaged by Hurricane Sandy. He said by commuting back and forth he gets to see how other local governments relate or do not relate to our community. He stated that all local governments deal with the same issues, but some on a different scale.

Vice-Chairman Joe Winslow reported that he recently attended that COA Bookstore grand opening. He said this was probably a \$350,000 improvement that cost the people of Pasquotank County nothing. He noted that this is a beautiful addition to COA and he urged everyone to go and see it.

Commissioner William Sterritt reported that the Governance Committee met last week and invited the members of the Community Relations Committee to meet with them. He said the committee will meet again on February 21 at 3:00 PM in the Hugh Cale Commissioners Board Room. He stated that the committee consists of three County Commissioners and he invited other members of the Board to attend the meetings of the committee to hear the discussions. He said the issue the committee is currently dealing with is minority representation on the Board of Commissioners. He stated that other issues will come before the committee in the future.

Commissioner Gary White reported that he would like to thank the Clerk for the time she spent with him this morning setting up his ipad and showing him how to use it.

Commissioner Cecil Perry reported that Commissioner Winslow is now the Vice-Chairman of the Jail Commission. He said Perquimans County Commissioner Ed Muzzelin is now the Chairman. Commissioner Perry added that the Special Projects Committee will be meeting tomorrow at 4:00 PM.

#### **13. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN:**

Chairman Dixon stated that the Board needs to have a lot of special meetings and work sessions to work on various issues. He said the Board should plan on having 2:30 or 3:00 PM work sessions prior to the next four or five meetings. He stated that the Board needs to review its Rules of Procedure at one of these work sessions. He said he and Vice-Chairman Winslow learned at the Board Chair Training they recently attended in Durham that this should be done anytime a new member comes on the Board. He said the Board also needs to be ahead of the Hospital RFP concerning the impact it could have on the county's bottom line. He said if the hospital lease payment goes away it would result in more than a three cents increase in property taxes. He stated that the EMS payment also needs to be considered. He said these issues will have a huge impact on the county. He noted that the county's reason for selecting one proposal over another will be different from the reasons of the Hospital Authority and the RFP Task Force. Commissioner Perry cautioned everyone to be careful about their remarks because he does not want the remarks to frighten people away. Chairman Dixon added that Commissioners should not allow themselves to be painted into a corner. He said it is still too early in the process to make any decision.

Chairman Dixon stated that the Commissioners all need to be on the same level with ipads and he requested that some type of ipad training be held.

Chairman Dixon said when he was first appointed Chairman and appointed internal committees, he listed goals and objectives for some of the committees. He stated that he would like for every committee to have at least two or three objectives that they can be working on at any given time in order to be as productive as possible. He said a work session on the goals and objectives should be held.

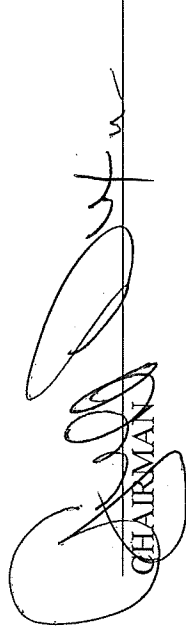
Chairman Dixon reported that he was invited to a meeting of the Board of Education where two schools in the school system were recognized through a program by the federal government called "Healthier U.S. School Challenge". He stated that Northeastern High School and J.C. Sawyer Elementary School cafeterias each received a gold award which is not easily achieved. He explained that this program was begun by the First Lady to try to reduce obesity in the school systems. He said there is a long list of criteria that must be met and these two schools are to be commended for their success.

Commissioner Frankie Meads commented that he learned at the school for new Commissioners that if there is a charter school started in a county, the county has to provide the same amount of funds for each student as for those in the public schools. Chairman Dixon noted that in the package of legislative goals from the NCACC the Board agreed to support tonight, one of the goals is to not support this funding for charter school students. Mr. Keaton added that even if a student from one county goes to a charter school in another county, the money would have to follow the child as the home county is responsible for providing that funding.

Chairman Dixon asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being no further business;

Motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Joe Winslow to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

  
CLERK TO THE BOARD

  
CHAIRMAN