

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
FEBRUARY 17, 2020**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, February 17, 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. Commissioner Charles Jordan requested the agenda be amended to add the following items recommended by the Finance Committee today: 1) Approval of Budget Amendments presented at the Finance Committee meeting today; and 2) Approval of 2019-20 Audit Contract.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to amend the agenda to add items #1-2 to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. CONSIDERATION OF GREEN SAVES GREEN FUNDING REQUEST:**

County Manager Hammett explained that Green Saves Green has requested a \$1,000 contribution from the County to be a sponsor of the Love Your River event. The event is a free, family-friendly event scheduled on Saturday, April 18, 2020. The event coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, and will encourage people to enjoy our waterways, learn why waterways and water quality are important, and discover ways to protect them. On February 3, 2020, the Finance Committee recommended approval of the request.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Charles Jordan to approve a \$1,000 sponsorship for the Love Your River event scheduled for April 18, 2020.

Commissioner Meads requested additional information about the Green Saves Green Organization prior to spending taxpayers' money. Chairman Dixon said that Green Saves Green is the same organization that organizes the Spring and Fall Litter Sweeps.

Commissioner Perry supports the request, but said we need to be consistent with our requests.

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

**3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of February 3, 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.	Alexander's Lawn Care	131.12	
2.	S & S Prop. Of EC LLC		180.00
3.	Pearl St. Pentecostal Church Inc.	144.00	36.00
4.	Carter Lumber Transport LLC	192.33	
5.	Thomas E Stevenson Jr.	103.95	
6.	Stokley's Excavating	523.14	
7.	George Nowell		115.41
8.	Daniel Reilly	137.06	116.59
9.	Diamond Solid Investment LLC	244.87	
10.	Greater Anointing Ministries	969.76	944.24
11.	Sentosa Care	3,315.91	2,820.68
12.	Karen Bauman	1,587.74	1,524.06
13.	Karen Bauman	2,712.71	2,481.02
14.	Michael J. Woodrum	267.61	227.65

Tax Refunds

		County	City
1.	Diamond Solid Investment LLC	244.87	
2.	Steven Jacob Girardin	106.10	90.24

Solid Waste Fee Releases

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Linda Bridgeman Etal	P6-26	Vacant
2.	Melba Bridgeman	P7-16	Vacant
3.	Terry & Cathy Buchanan	P141-40	Vacant
4.	Shawn Etheridge Etal	P59-31	Vacant
5.	William Alvin Norfleet	P120-179	Vacant
6.	Evelyn R. Poole Etal	P98-15	Vacant
7.	Janice Poole & Hattie Poole	P95-21	Vacant
8.	H. C. & Marcy Bergman Pritchard	P119-275	Vacant
9.	Horace C. Pritchard Sr. Etal	P141-217	Vacant
10.	Horace Jr. & Marcy B. Pritchard	P89-84	Vacant
11.	Horace C. Pritchard Sr. Etal	P141-24A	Vacant
12.	Horace F. Pritchard	P140-183	Vacant
13.	Bell Taylor Heirs	26-D-1	Vacant
14.	Carl T. Waybright	P133-5	Vacant
15.	Carl T. Waybright	P133A-76 & 77	Vacant
16.	L. E. & Brenda A. White	P110-53B	Vacant
17.	Lemuel E. White	P110-55	Vacant

Solid Waste Fee Refund

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Miller & Meads Inc.	P15-8	Vacant

c. Approval of Budget Amendments

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following budget amendments:

Sheriff

Decrease	010.6900.5991.00	Contingency	12,420.00
Increase	010.4310.5121.00	Salaries and Wages	10,065.00
Increase	010.4310.5181.00	FICA	765.00
Increase	010.4310.5182.00	Retirement	1,590.00

Ag Ext

Increase	010.0230.4370.00	State Grants	4,907.00
Increase	010.4950.5600.34	Grant-SHIIP	4,907.00

Debt Service/Capital Reserve

Increase	010.0700.4981.21	Transfer from Capital Reserve	2,000.00
Increase	010.9100.5394.01	Trustee Services	2,000.00
Decrease	021.8200.5960.01	Capital Reserve-Unallocated	2,000.00
Increase	021.8200.5980.10	Transfer to General Fund	2,000.00

Public Bldgs/Capital Reserve

Increase	010.0700.4981.21	Transfer from Capital Reserve	99,859.00
Increase	010.4190.5351.00	Maintenance & Repair-Bldgs.	17,370.00
Increase	010.4190.5359.00	Maintenance-Grounds	14,200.00
Increase	010.4190.5500.00	Capital Outlay	68,289.00
Decrease	021.8200.5960.01	Capital Reserve - Unallocated	99,859.00
Increase	021.8200.5980.10	Transfer to General Fund	99,859.00

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Decrease	010.4135.5126.00	Salaries & Wages - PT	31,500.00
Increase	010.4135.5440.00	Contracted Services	31,500.00

Register of Deeds

Increase	010.0180.4240.00	Documentary Stamps	15,965.00
Increase	010.4180.5121.00	Salaries & Wages	13,690.00
Increase	010.4180.5181.00	FICA	1,040.00
Increase	010.4180.5182.00	Retirement	1,235.00

School Resource Officers

Increase	010.0600.4950.00	School Security	31,275.00
Increase	010.4315.5121.00	Salaries & Wages	22,450.00
Increase	010.4315.5181.00	FICA	1,720.00
Increase	010.4315.5182.00	Retirement	3,300.00
Increase	010.4315.5183.00	Health Insurance	3,805.00

Sheriff

Decrease	010.6900.5991.00	Contingency	6,4930.00
Decrease	010.4320.5362.00	Juvenile Services	33,735.00
Decrease	010.4195.5440.00	Contracted Services	20,000.00
Increase	010.4310.5122.00	Salaries & wages - OT	49,500.00
Increase	010.4310.5181.00	FICA	3,790.00
Increase	010.4310.5182.00	Retirement	7,375.00

*d. Approval of Reorganization of Pasquotank-Camden EMS*

At the January 8, 2020 EMS Board Meeting, members approved to move forward with a reorganization of the EMS Department. This reorganization will help our EMS Department better handle its current and future needs. As a result of this request, the EMS Deputy Chief position would be renamed EMS Operations Manager, and would maintain the same Grade 25 status. This reclassification also comes with a revised job description, creating more specific duties of operations management.

Also created are four Lieutenant positions at a Grade 20. These Lieutenant positions will be filled by currently employed full time Paramedics whose roles will include assisting the Shift Captain in his or her daily operational and administrative duties. This reorganization request also reassigns the Training Officer duties to a current Shift Captain, with oversight of those duties performed by the EMS Operations Manager. Reassigning the duties of the Training Captain opens up a Captain's position, which the EMS department proposes to reassign to the Community Paramedic Coordinator. Reassignment of this Captain's position will allow for the creation of the Community Paramedicine Division for the EMS Department. The Paramedic position left vacant by this reorganization will be externally advertised and filled with a Paramedic versed in Community Paramedicine, allowing for expansion of the PCEMS Community Partnership Paramedicine Program.

The reorganization addresses EMS operational needs, and repurposes an existing position to add an additional Community Paramedic position. The reorganization will not result in any additional cost to the county. The Finance Committee recommended approval of the Pasquotank-Camden EMS Reorganization as proposed.

e. Approval of Grant Agreement for Telephonics Corporation

On June 3, 2019, the Board approved submitting an application to the Department of Commerce (DOC) for a Building Reuse Grant for Telephonics Corporation in the amount of \$400,000, with a local match not to exceed \$20,000. Recently, the DOC sent the Economic Development Commission (ECD) the Rural Economic Development Grant Agreement and Legally Binding Agreement for review and approval by the County. The Grant Agreement and LBC outline the criteria Telephonics and the County must meet in order to receive the full benefits of the Building Reuse Grant. Staff has reviewed the agreement and recommends approval.

f. Adoption of Alligator River Bridge Resolution

The Board has been asked to adopt the following resolution in support of Alligator River Bridge Improvements:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ALLIGATOR RIVER BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Lindsey C. Warren Bridge which crosses the Alligator River was constructed in 1960 and serves as the main transportation link along Highway 64 from areas west of Dare County; and

**WHEREAS**, the draw-bridge infrastructure of the bridge is obsolete and was closed for repairs in 2017 and 2019 resulting in lengthy detours for residents, visitors, and commerce to Dare County, Currituck County, Hyde County and Tyrrell County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alligator River is part of the Intercoastal Waterway and is used by numerous commercial shipping vessels and recreational boats on an annual basis, often creating delays and back-ups; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lindsey C. Warren Bridge is an essential component of the hurricane evacuation route for residents of Dare County, Currituck County, and Hyde County and thousands of Outer Banks visitors each year and the continuous functionality of the Warren Bridge is imperative to ensure the safety of our residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the need for a new bridge and/or a replacement bridge across the Alligator River has been identified by the NC Department of Transportation but has not been funded as part of the State's Transportation Improvement Plan despite the age, obscurity and continued operational issues of the bridge; and

**WHEREAS**, the methodology for STIP funding does not allow a new or replacement Alligator River Bridge to compete effectively against other transportation improvements in more urban areas of the State, thus contributing to the continued delay in construction of a new or replacement bridge; and

**WHEREAS**, the NC Department of Transportation is soliciting comments on transportation improvements for inclusion in the ten-year transportation plan for 2023-2032:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners requests a new or replacement bridge for the Alligator River be included in the 2023-2032 State Transportation Improvement Plan in recognition of the vital role this bridge plays in the transportation and commerce needs of Eastern North Carolina. Be it further resolved that other funding sources for such improvements should be identified by the State of North Carolina if STIP methodology used for funding is not suitable and practicable for this project.

This the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

g. Adoption of Resolution Supporting the Veterans Experience Action Center (VEAC)

The Board has been asked to adopt the following resolution of support for the Veterans Experience Action Center (VEAC):

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE VETERANS  
EXPERIENCE ACTION CENTER (VEAC)**

**WHEREAS**, on December 17, 2019, the County Manager attended the Veterans Experience Action Center (VEAC) preliminary meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this meeting was to discuss holding a VEAC event in Elizabeth City, NC, on the campus of ECSU on June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, this event will be held to bring together community service providers, veterans service organizations, and other government partners for the purpose of providing services, resources, and information directly to both veterans and those currently serving our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the VEAC event will be geared toward providing valuable information to former and current members of the military of the many services available to them, including money and medical treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board feels this event is of great importance and would like to offer support in the form of security assistance from Sheriff's Office personnel and medical assistance from Pasquotank Camden Emergency Medical Services; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners that the County shall offer its services to support the VEAC event at ECSU in collaboration with the Veterans Benefits Administration and other agencies in honor of our military personnel, both active and retired.

This the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020

*h. Approval of Bid to Farm +/- 197 Acres in the Commerce Park*

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board accept a bid from John Bulman, Jr. in the amount of \$157.99 per acre (total annual rent of \$31,124.03) to farm +/- 197 acres in the Pasquotank County Commerce Park.

*i. Approval of 2019-20 Audit Contract*

The Audit Contract with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A. in the amount of \$23,500 for the 2019-20 Audit requires Board approval. Staff recommends approval of the contract.

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

**4. REPORTS FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY:**

County Attorney Mike Cox reported on the Annual County Attorneys' Conference he recently attended.

**5. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Overman explained that the Green Saves Green organization was formed in 2017. It is an all-volunteer, environmental action group. Their first expo was in March 2018 (Green Expo). In June, they held a Reinventing Power Expo. In March 2019, they installed the city's first electric car charging system. In addition, they organized the Spring and Fall Litter Sweep in 2019. He stated that they are doing great things in our community. He reported that the Community Relations Commission's Witherspoon-Harris Award Banquet is scheduled for February 29<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Jordan attended the Ministers Council meeting, and a Black History program held at the Library. He said he and Attorney Cox are presenting to the League of Women Voters tomorrow evening.

Vice-Chairman Griffin attended a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Community meeting. Many of their concerns included gun fire within the City, speeding, drug houses, robberies, and code enforcement.

Commissioner Lavin expressed his appreciation for the Sheriff's recent efforts to combat crime. He suggested the County do more outreach to ECSU regarding the census.

Commissioner Meads echoed Commissioners Lavin remarks regarding the increased efforts by the Sheriff's Office in reducing crime.

Commissioner Perry said he would like the Board to reconsider restructuring the County in order to give African Americans a better chance at winning an election. Currently, he said there is only one district where African Americans outnumber whites. He stated that only two African Americans have been elected at-large in our county. He thinks it is time to take a look at being fair.

Chairman Dixon stated that he has been given an application for consideration as a potential appointee on the Community Relations Commission. After reviewing the application, he said he would like to appoint Ms. Jeanette Brothers to the CRC Board.

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 6:30 PM.

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CHAIRMAN

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CLERK TO THE BOARD