

PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 16, 2015

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, March 16, 2015 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Chairman
Cecil Perry, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Dixon
Lloyd E. Griffin, III
Dr. William R. Sterritt
Frankie Meads
Bettie J. Parker

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rodney Bunch, 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 Joe Winslow. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Commissioner William Sterritt led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Winslow asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry requested that the agenda be amended to add the following recommendations from today's Finance Committee meeting to the consent agenda: 1) Approval of budget amendment for additional payment to the health insurance pool; and 2) Approval of tax releases and refunds and solid waste fee releases. It was also requested that the agenda be amended to add the following items to new business: 1) Approval of recommendation from the Finance Committee to extend the Solid Waste Management Agreement for operation of the C&D landfill and LCID landfill; and 2) Consideration of amendment to contract with Geronimo, LLC.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Cecil Perry to add the first two items recommended above by the Finance Committee to the consent agenda, and to add the second two items recommended above to new business. The motion carried unanimously.

2. APPROVAL OF REVISED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CAMDEN COUNTY:

The Board considered a revised Emergency Medical Services Agreement with Camden County. The Board approved an agreement on February 12, however Pasquotank County's Attorney and Camden County's Attorney have recommended a few minor clarifications that will not affect the dollar amounts or the length of the agreement. The contract is virtually the same as it was when approved on February 12, however a few grammatical changes have been made and Section 3.1 ("Responsibilities of Pasquotank") has been clarified to better state the intention of the parties.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Cecil Perry to approve the revised Emergency Medical Services Agreement with Camden County as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

- a. *Approval of Minutes of March 2 and March 4, 2015 Commissioner Meetings*
- b. *Approval of Family Subdivision Request FS 15-02 by William Garrett*
Staff recommends approval of Family Subdivision Request FS 15-02 by William Garrett. Mr. Garrett is requesting to create a 1.6 acre gift lot for his daughter, Sheryl Temple, in accordance with Article 5, Section 303 of the Pasquotank County Subdivision Ordinance. A total of 156 feet of road frontage is provided to the parcel off of Double Bridge Road with an additional 362 feet

of frontage along Griffin Swamp Road. A birth certificate has been provided as documentation that the plat qualifies as a family subdivision and an improvement permit has been issued for a septic system. Staff advises that the request meets the minimum requirements for a family subdivision and recommends approval.

c. Approval of Tax Releases & Refunds and Solid Waste Fee Releases

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

Releases:		County	City
1.	Marsha Poole Raper - 2013	202.49	
2.	Marsha Poole Raper - 2014	218.19	

Refunds:

1.	Steven Spencer Berry	709.84	101.48
2.	Joel Tory & Jennifer J. Pingel	125.40	97.17
3.	Hunter's Lake Property Owners Assoc.	120.08	351.45
4.	Rhonda Twiddy - 2013	447.30	351.45
5.	Rhonda Twiddy - 2012	440.20	326.60
6.	Rhonda Twiddy - 2011	440.20	326.60
7.	Rhonda Twiddy - 2010	429.55	326.60

Solid Waste Releases:

OWNER'S NAME	PARCEL ID NUMBER	REASON FOR RELEASE
1. Samuel E. Poole	50-N-31	Vacant 6 years

d. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

General Fund

Increase	010.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	84,948.00
Increase	010.0550.4839.00	Miscellaneous Revenue	205,000.00
Increase	010.4120.5183.00	Health Insurance	5,464.00
Increase	010.4120.5188.00	Health Insurance-Retirees	1,815.00
Increase	010.4125.5183.00	Health Insurance	3,647.00
Increase	010.4130.5183.00	Health Insurance	7,294.00
Increase	010.4135.5183.00	Health Insurance	3,647.00
Increase	010.4140.5183.00	Health Insurance	16,411.00
Increase	010.4150.5183.00	Health Insurance	3,647.00
Increase	010.4170.5183.00	Health Insurance	3,647.00
Increase	010.4180.5183.00	Health Insurance	2,782.00
Increase	010.4180.5188.00	Health Insurance-Retirees	1,815.00
Increase	010.4190.5183.00	Health Insurance	18,232.00
Increase	010.4192.5183.00	Health Insurance	3,646.00
Increase	010.4195.5183.00	Health Insurance	3,630.00
Increase	010.4310.5183.00	Health Insurance	57,043.00
Increase	010.4315.5183.00	Health Insurance	7,996.00
Increase	010.4325.5183.00	Health Insurance	27,052.00
Increase	010.4330.5183.00	Health Insurance	1,824.00
Increase	010.4350.5183.00	Health Insurance	7,029.00
Increase	010.4370.5183.00	Health Insurance	45,928.00
Increase	010.4380.5183.00	Health Insurance	3,647.00
Increase	010.4910.5183.00	Health Insurance	3,647.00
Increase	010.4915.5183.00	Health Insurance	3,647.00
Increase	010.6600.5980.11	Public Assistance	56,458.00

DSS

Increase	011.0240.4531.01	Administration	94,174.00
Increase	011.0700.4981.00	General Fund Transfer	56,458.00
Increase	011.5310.5183.00	Health Insurance	147,002.00
Increase	011.5310.5188.00	Health Insurance-Retirees	3,630.00

Library		
Increase	013.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated
Increase	013.6110.5183.00	Health Insurance
		20,208.00
		20,208.00

Water		
Decrease	060.7130.5991.00	Contingency
Increase	060.0350.4714.00	Sewer Revenue
Increase	060.7130.5183.00	Health Insurance
Increase	060.7140.5183.00	Health Insurance
		5,253.00
		16,163.00
		19,595.00
		1,821.00

RO		
Decrease	063.7135.5991.00	Contingency
Increase	063.7135.5183.00	Health Insurance
		3,781.00
		3,781.00

Landfill		
Decrease	065.7425.5960.01	Capital Reserve
Increase	065.7420.5183.00	Health Insurance
Increase	065.7425.5183.00	Health Insurance
Increase	065.7430.5183.00	Health Insurance
		21,939.00
		11,001.00
		9,114.00
		1,824.00

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Bettie Parker to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion carried.

4. DESIGNATION OF INDIVIDUAL TO SERVE ON A STEERING COMMITTEE TO DESIGN A WORKSHOP REGARDING ECOTOURISM:

The Board considered the designation of a representative from Pasquotank County to participate in a Steering Committee to assist in designing a regional workshop on ecotourism. It has been suggested by the Coastal Plain Refuge Complex and the Albemarle Commission that Pasquotank County designate William McCrea, Director of Museum of the Albemarle, as its representative.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to designate William McCrea to serve on a Steering Committee to design a workshop on ecotourism titled "Balancing Nature and Commerce". The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF FIRST AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT BETWEEN PASQUOTANK COUNTY AND GERONIMO, LLC:

County Attorney Mike Cox explained that Geronimo, LLC is trying to close on the purchase of additional property in the Commerce Park to expand Moneysworth Linen Service. He said under the terms of that agreement Geronimo is supposed to provide the county a \$150,000 bond, but cannot get the bond for sewer work according to Geronimo's attorney. In lieu of a bond, Geronimo wants to give the county a \$15,000 cash bond to cover the sewer work, and the remainder of the work will be guaranteed by a regular bond or letter of credit as provided in the contract. Mr. Cox stressed that this will not offer any additional incentives and will actually put the county in a better position since it will have a cash bond and a letter of credit. Commissioner Dixon suggested that the contract state the name of the buyer as Geronimo, LLC d/b/a Moneysworth Linen Service rather than Geronimo, LLC. Mr. Cox said he will be glad to add it unless there is an objection from Geronimo's attorney.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Frankie Meads to approve the First Amendment to the contract between Pasquotank County and Geronimo, LLC for the purchase of 6.2 acres in the Commerce Park. The motion carried unanimously.

6. COMMENTS REGARDING BOARD OF ELECTIONS PROPOSAL:

Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry said he would like to comment on information included in the agenda packet from the Board of Elections. He said the Board of Elections has proposed to combine some of the precincts in the city. He stated that he would not support the proposed changes and he hopes the Board of Elections will keep everything the way it currently is. County Attorney Mike Cox noted that the Board of Elections will be meeting tomorrow to discuss the proposed precinct consolidation.

7. APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR OPERATION OF THE C&D LANDFILL AND LCID LANDFILL:

The Board considered a recommendation from the Finance Committee to extend the Solid Waste Management Agreement with Stevenson Sand, Inc. and R&D Excavation Company, Inc. for operation of the C&D Landfill and LCID Landfill. It is recommended that a new contract be executed under the exact same terms and at the same rate as the current agreement.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Cecil Perry to approve a three-year extension of the Solid Waste Management Agreement with Stevenson Sand, Inc. and R&D Excavation Company, Inc. based on the same terms and rate as the current agreement.

Discussion followed and Commissioner Frankie Meads said he believes the first contractor was an outside contractor who previously saved the county approximately \$390,000. He said the Board will never know whether this contract will save the county any money because it is not being put out for bids. He said that is the reason he opposes the contract. He stated that he represents the citizens outside of the City of Elizabeth City and he thinks something this big should be put out for bids. He added that he also believes the county needs to set some policies regarding contracts and that there should be a limit on the dollar amount that can be approved in-house without putting a contract out for bids. He said he opposes extending the agreement with Stevenson Sand and R&D Excavation because he does not know what the results would have been if the contract had been bid.

Commissioner William Sterritt stated that he opposes doing nothing and believes the Board will be taking the easy way out by extending the current contract without any additional information. He said he cannot vote for this motion to extend the contract.

The motion to extend the contract carried by a five to two margin with Commissioners Meads and Sterritt voting against the motion.

8. REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER:

County Manager Rodney Bunch reported to the Board that Hugh Tarkenton, Fire Department Coordinator, has submitted his resignation effective June 30, 2015. He said Mr. Tarkenton has provided sufficient notice for the county to find someone who is capable of working with the volunteer fire departments.

Mr. Bunch stated that he has received notification that East Carolina Behavioral Health will not continue to lease space at Edgewood Center when its current lease expires on June 30, 2015.

Mr. Bunch said last week he received information on the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference which will be held July 10-13 in Charlotte. He asked if anyone is interested in attending to notify staff so that registrations/reservations can be made.

Mr. Bunch stated that he has received another reminder about the Chamber Annual Dinner meeting which will be held next Tuesday evening.

Mr. Bunch provided a copy of a letter from the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce to Congressman Randy Forbes requesting support for a future interstate designation for the highway corridor from Hampton Roads to Raleigh via Elizabeth City.

Mr. Bunch advised that last week he received a message to call Cerena Eitler with the Department of Defense regarding the county's interest in participating in a future Joint Land Use Study. He said as of a week ago he still had not received a definite response from any of the other adjoining counties besides Camden County as to their interest in participating in the study. He noted that the Board had previously indicated that it would be willing to participate if the majority of the other counties in the region were willing to participate.

Mr. Bunch reported that the Finance Officer sent out budget sheets to department heads so they can begin preparing their budget requests later this month. He said the Board will need to start planning budget meetings in mid-April.

Mr. Bunch stated that two weeks from tonight will be a fifth Monday. He asked if the Board is interested in having a joint meeting with the city at that time. The Board concurred to not have a joint meeting in March. Mr. Bunch said he and the Finance Officer will begin meeting with the City Manager to discuss next year's funding for joint programs so they can have information to present to the Board in a budget work session.

9. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner William Sterritt referred to a letter received from Kurt Hunsberger inviting Commissioners to the showing of the film "Racial Taboo" sponsored by the Community Relations Commission and the Hope Group on March 26 at 6:00 PM. He said the film was shown a few months ago and three Commissioners were present. He stated that he hopes there will be a good turnout for the re-showing. He noted that the film follows along with what the Mayor and Bishop Sutton are doing in the community with Vision 2020 concerning community relations. He said the film lasts about 45 minutes and he hopes the Commissioners will be able to fit this into their schedules as he believes it will be beneficial.

Commissioner Frankie Meads said he didn't have a chance to ask questions at the last meeting of the Solid Waste/Landfill Committee. He stated that he hoped to present information about the price of recycled cardboard. He provided cost information for a recycling company in Virginia, what it pays for recyclables, and the estimated freight costs. He suggested this company will pay \$40 per ton for compacted cardboard. He said the company will also pay \$12.50 per ton for mixed recyclables including glass, plastic, and cardboard that is not separated. He said the county's current proposal is to send mixed recyclables to a company in Currituck County for \$8.50 per ton. He suggested that the Solid Waste Department contact the Fiber Recycling Company in Virginia.

Commissioner Meads stated that he met with Dale Folwell, Assistant Secretary for the Division of Employment Security, and he provided some very good news about the unemployment rate in North Carolina. He advised that the number of unemployed people in the state has decreased from 285,000 to 125,000. He said that North Carolina had a \$2.8 billion unemployment debt over the past few years that it could not pay and borrowed the funds from the federal government. In 2015 the state will have all of that \$2.8 billion paid. He said employers have paid \$262 million in interest during this period of time and the federal government has given the state \$180 million back because it paid the debt ahead of schedule which is unheard of. He stated that Employment Security wants to put \$750 million in that fund so this problem will not occur again. This means that the unemployment rate should decrease for employers in North Carolina as soon as the fund is built back up.

Commissioner Jeff Dixon reported that the Board of Trustees for the proposed charter school, the Northeast Academy of Aerospace and Advanced Technology, met on Monday. He stated that Mayor Joe Peel and he are co-chairs of the Board and there are seven other members. He said they are pursuing locating the school on the ECSU campus. He reported that the Sentara Foundation has been gracious enough to initiate the first funding phase of the school at \$100,000. He said the proposed funding will be about \$450,000 to get the school open. He stated that the school has been approved by the North Carolina Board of Education and they are now subject to the Open Meetings Law like county and city governments. He said they plan to have their board meetings in the Commissioners Board Room in the Courthouse on the first and fourth Wednesdays of each month until they can move to the ECSU campus. He said the school will be accepting enrollment in August. He noted that they just found out that their school has been put on a fast track to become an early college school. He added that the next Board of Trustees meeting will be on March 25 at 5:30 PM and he invited anyone to attend who is interested in hearing about the charter school.

Commissioner Bettie Parker reported that she attended the Elizabeth City State University Founders Day Scholarship Gala on March 7 and Commissioner Dixon was recognized with a business award and Commissioner Perry was recognized with a government education award. She stated that both of them represented the county well as they delivered their acceptance speeches.

Chairman Winslow stated that he also attended the ECSU Scholarship Gala and was proud of Commissioners Perry and Dixon and agrees that they represented the county well.

Commissioner Parker said she also recently attended the Albemarle Hopeline Legislative Breakfast at Cypress Creek Grill on March 9 along with Commissioners Winslow and Meads. She stated that Susan Scurria, President of the Board of Directors for Albemarle Hopeline, welcomed those in attendance and pointed out that Albemarle Hopeline has been providing services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in our six county area for over 33 years. She said Ms. Scurria pointed out that help is needed in order to meet their goal of providing quality comprehensive services to victims at no charge.

Commissioner Parker reported that on March 11th and 12th she attended the Essentials of County Government workshop for new Commissioners sponsored by the UNC School of Government in New Bern. She said she learned a lot, is pleased that she was able to attend, and believes that it will make her a better Commissioner.

Commissioner Cecil Perry thanked everyone for their comments regarding the ECSU Gala and Fundraiser. He said he thought there was a great turnout from the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Perry stated that a limited number of Commissioners have been appointed to internal committees for a reason and the Chairman is an ex officio member of the committees. He apologized to Commissioner Meads for not allowing him to participate in the Solid Waste/Landfill Committee meeting but his participation would have resulted in a quorum of the Board of Commissioners and the meeting was not advertised as such. He said public comments were allowed at the beginning of the meeting.

Commissioner Perry said he serves on the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Education Committee and will be attending a meeting of the committee this Wednesday in Raleigh.

Chairman Winslow advised that it was reported at the Jail Commission meeting that the number of federal prisoners in Albemarle District Jail is approximately the same and the jail is moving forward financially. He said he does not see any immediate problems and everything seems to be under control at the Jail. He added that he is very satisfied with the way things are progressing.

Chairman Winslow stated that the dedication ceremony celebrating the naming of the Commissioners Board Room in memory of Hugh Cale was held this afternoon. He said anyone who was not present missed a nice ceremony. He said Commissioner Sterritt did an excellent job organizing the ceremony with the assistance of the Clerk to the Board. He added that this was a remarkable event that was well attended. He thanked Commissioner Sterritt for his hard work.

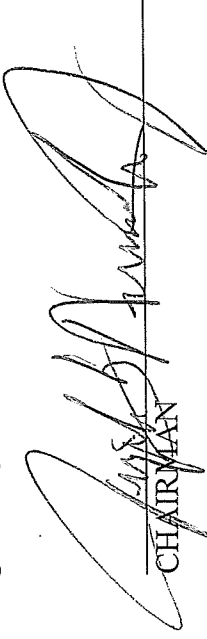
10. APPOINTMENT TO ELIZABETH CITY PLANNING COMMISSION:

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin stated that the Appointments Committee has recommended that Gary White be appointed to fill a vacancy on the Elizabeth City Planning Commission. He also said applications should be forthcoming from individuals interested in serving on the Elizabeth City Board of Adjustment and the Animal Control Board.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Cecil Perry to appoint Gary White to the Elizabeth City Planning Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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


CHAIRMAN


CLERK TO THE BOARD