

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
JULY 13, 2015**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, July 13, 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
Sheri Small, Finance Officer
Karen Jennings, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Joe Winslow read a statement regarding the procedure and conduct for tonight's meeting. He followed with a moment of silence for the tragedy that occurred in Charleston, South Carolina on June 17 and a prayer in memory of the victims.

Chairman Winslow called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. 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 following recommendations from the Finance Committee be added to the consent agenda: 1) Approval of tax refunds and solid waste fee release; 2) Approval for COA to use excess roof repair funds of approximately \$18,500 for parking lot repairs; 3) Approval to hire Computer Support Technician for Information Technology Department at Grade 16, Step 7, \$36,518; 4) Approval to appropriate \$1,000 to Highway 17 Association from tourism (occupancy tax) funds; 5) Approval to appropriate \$15,000 to Arts of the Albemarle from tourism (occupancy tax) funds; and 6) Approval of budget amendment in the amount of \$99,196 for receipt and expenditure of grant funds from Homeland Security. Vice-Chairman Perry also requested that the following recommendation from the Finance Committee be added to new business: 1) Approval of sole source purchase of Mack transfer truck for the Solid Waste Department. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin requested that the agenda be adjusted to move item 8A to 5C.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Jeff Dixon to approve the amendments to the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2. UPDATE FROM DR. LANDON MASON, ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL:

Chairman Winslow welcomed and recognized Dr. Landon Mason with the Economic Improvement Council. Dr. Mason advised that he is the new Executive Director of the Economic Improvement Council and would like to inform the Board of the great work the EIC is doing in Pasquotank County. He stated that they are pleased to be able to come into Pasquotank County and provide services to families that have been disenfranchised because of economics. He explained that from their home office in Edenton they provide services to Pasquotank County residents through four programs consisting of their CSBG Program, the Head Start Program, the Section 8 Housing Program, and the Weatherization Program. He stated that through these programs they are able to assist and empower people to take control of their lives by becoming independent and self-sufficient. Chairman Winslow welcomed Dr. Mason to the community and thanked him for his report.

3. UPDATE FROM THE RED CROSS:

Chairman Winslow recognized Carolyn Self with the Red Cross to update the Board on disaster preparedness and the role of the Red Cross. Mrs. Self informed the Board that she retired in October after 20 years with the American Red Cross and three months ago she went back to work with the Red Cross as a volunteer. She said she is now considered the community volunteer leader for the American Red Cross for the nine county area. She stated that tonight she wants to talk to the Board about a couple of things they are working on at the Red Cross that she thinks are important to the community. She said it is now hurricane season and storms can form very quickly. She explained that the Red Cross is currently working very hard to prepare for hurricane season. Mrs. Self said an issue that concerns the Red Cross is the lack of hurricane shelter space. She stated that some revamping was done in the K.E. White Center which has decreased the sheltering capacity from 450 to 300 people. The only other approved shelter is Northside Elementary School which can only hold about 125 people. Mrs. Self advised that there are no other approved buildings in this area that are acceptable for a hurricane shelter which is an issue for the Red Cross. She stated that the local people need to be better prepared for disasters as they find more and more people relying on FEMA and other agencies for assistance. She explained that she and Pasquotank County's Emergency Management Director Christy Saunders go out into the community and make presentations on disaster preparedness. She asked the leaders in the community to find better ways of educating the public on how to prepare for a disaster. She said the "big one" has not hit yet and she can see the day when a category 3 or 4 hurricane could hit the area and if people are not prepared it will be very difficult as they could be cut off for up to five days. She said the Red Cross is working hard in the community to make preparations and obtain supplies that would be needed after a disaster, but it would be great to continue to get the word out for people to be ready so that lives can be saved. Mrs. Self noted that since 1992 she has worked every disaster that has hit this area, but in 1998 she saw the first death in a storm, a 12 year old girl whose parents did not know that hurricanes also have tornadoes in them. She thanked the Board for its assistance in getting the community better prepared for a disaster.

Commissioner Jeff Dixon suggested that Mrs. Self work with Christy Saunders to help identify county-owned buildings that could be modified to serve as potential hurricane shelters.

Chairman Winslow also suggested that Mrs. Self work with Mrs. Saunders to develop a plan that includes their needs and bring back recommendations to the Board of Commissioners as to what it can do to assist. He thanked her for her report and for her work with the Red Cross.

4. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AT FUN JUNKTION:

Parks and Recreation Director Bobbi White said she is appearing before the Board tonight with a request to apply for funding to improve the Fun Junktion Park playground. She explained that on July 1, 2010 the city and county governing bodies combined their respective recreation departments to form the Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Parks and Recreation Department. The county pays 55% of the department's operating budget and the city oversees the operation of the department. Mrs. White said for several years the Parks and Recreation Department has wanted to replace the playground equipment at Fun Junktion Park due to its age, deterioration, and safety concerns. She stated that staff has always found it difficult to find replacement parts for repairs. She said in May, 2015, East Carolina Behavioral Health announced to city and county recreation departments in 19 counties an opportunity to apply for their Play Together Construction Grant for Accessible Playgrounds. Funding will be applied to the construction of accessible playgrounds and playground equipment for up to eight parks of various sizes, depending on the population. Mrs. White stated that staff would like to pursue this grant opportunity to replace the playground equipment at Fun Junktion to make it an all inclusive play area. She said accessible playgrounds are fully functional and accessible to individuals with special needs and individuals in wheelchairs. She noted that currently the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County School System has almost 1,000 special needs children in its system. The accessible playground would be a wonderful facility to offer these children an opportunity to play along with their friends. Mrs. White added that this grant does not require any matching funds and staff believes the grant has a good chance of being funded. She said the Parks and Recreation Department will act as the agency for Pasquotank County and administer the grant funds if the grant is approved. She stated that there will be no direct expense to the county or the city associated with this grant request other than staff time to apply for the grant and to administer the grant if funded. She said staff recommends that the Board authorize the Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Parks and Recreation Department to submit a grant application to East

Carolina Behavioral Health for a Play Together Construction Grant for Accessible Playgrounds on behalf of Pasquotank County for the construction of a fully accessible playground at Fun Junktion Park. If the Board approves construction of the playground on county-owned property, it will need to adopt a resolution giving its permission and supporting the project.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin asked Mrs. White how long this process should take. Mrs. White responded that the application has to be in by July 31 and a decision should be made by the end of August. If the grant is funded construction of the playground should be completed within one year.

Chairman Winslow asked if the grant includes any restrictions on the number of years the playground must be used. Mrs. White said she has not seen anything about restrictions. She stated that it is a one page grant and she does not see any grant amount or funding stipulations at all. Chairman Winslow said this project will be a win-win for Pasquotank County.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to adopt the following resolution granting permission for the Parks and Recreation Department to submit a grant application to East Carolina Behavioral Health for a Play Together Construction Grant for Accessible Playgrounds for construction of a fully accessible playground at Fun Junktion Park. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONSTRUCTION OF AN INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND AT FUN JUNKTION

WHEREAS, East Carolina Behavioral Health has approached the Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Parks and Recreation Department to apply for its Play Together Construction Grant for Accessible Playgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the Elizabeth City Parks and Recreation Department has requested permission to pursue this fully-funded grant opportunity and replace the playground equipment at Fun Junktion which is located on property owned by Pasquotank County; and

WHEREAS, under the grant a fully functional playground with the proper synthetic turf surface would be constructed which will be accessible to individuals with special needs and individuals in wheelchairs; and

WHEREAS, over 850 special needs children currently attending the Elizabeth City/Pasquotank Public Schools would have access to the park as well as special needs students from surrounding counties; and

WHEREAS, these special needs students will benefit greatly from having an inclusive playground that will meet not only their educational and physical needs, but their social needs as well; and

WHEREAS, the current playground equipment at Fun Junktion is almost 20 years old, the slides and panels are breaking and the platforms are rusting, and it is difficult to find replacement parts due to the age of the equipment; and

WHEREAS, the outdated playground equipment needs to be replaced, and the Play Together Construction Grant for Accessible Playgrounds will provide a perfect opportunity to replace the old equipment and construct an inclusive playground that will be accessible to all children;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners hereby grants the Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Parks and Recreation Department permission to apply for the East Carolina Behavioral Health Play Together Construction Grant for Accessible Playgrounds to construct an inclusive playground at Fun Junktion Park.

ADOPTED by the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners this 13th day of July, 2015.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Winslow stated that the Board will now hear comments from the public. Commissioner Griffin suggested, due to the number of individuals who have signed up, a three-minute time limit for each speaker with a maximum of six minutes if time is yielded from another individual.

Ms. Sharon Russell of 395 Firetower Road said she understands there has been a request by Mr. Rivers to remove the Confederate monument from the Courthouse lawn. She said on a personal note she does not think it should be removed, however there is legislation in Section 121-13.3 that says there is protection of North Carolina historical monuments and memorabilia. She noted that it says without a two-thirds majority vote of the North Carolina General Assembly, no war monument can be removed. She said she does not see how it could happen with just a local vote. Ms. Russell stated that Mr. Rivers has also said the monument could be relocated. She stated that the monument has been in place a long time and any attempt to move it would probably cause it to crumble. She asked why anyone would be offended by a monument that has been in place for 104 years. She stated that she has organized an event of the Southern Assembly on the Courthouse lawn on Saturday, July 18 and she expects over 700 people to come and make a statement that this was in the past. She said they do not see it as hate or racism. She stated that Representative Steinburg will speak at the rally on Saturday and he does not want the monument not trying to spread hate by keeping the Confederate flag, and he does not want the monument removed either. She said Pasquotank County has a history, whether right or wrong, and the people need to learn from their heritage and move together as one people and stop spreading hate among one another.

Mr. Scott Perry stated that culture is a rhythm, a heartbeat, and is something not visible to the mind's eye until it sees art, architecture or even a monument. He said a modern day traveler to Moscow will miss an entire historic record if he does not see the monolithic statues of Lenin and Stalin. He stated that a traveler to New York City misses seeing the statue of King George III as it was taken down during the Revolution. He asked what a traveler to Elizabeth City in the year 2074 would miss if the entire historic record and icons are not here, or if the Underground Railroad is not talked about or pursued in our museums. He said when the Board makes these decisions, it is not doing so as an expedient political move, but is making moves that will affect people well into the next 100 years.

Mr. Alex Leary explained that he has been an educator for 33 years and he is truly upset from what he is reading in the newspaper about the interpretation of history. He said what he is reading in the newspaper is that the Civil War was fought for slavery. He said there were actually three key issues: sectionalism, states' rights, and slavery. He stated that nobody should ever justify the institution of slavery because it was wrong, but it was an institution at that time. He said history books state that the causes of the Civil War were economics, a struggle between the southern planters and the industrial north, and control of the government. He stated that the northern plan was to increase tariffs and to finance the transcontinental railroad. Mr. Leary said it upset him when the paper said that people who supported the Confederacy were white supremacists, bigots and racists. He stated this insults his heritage. He stated that some people feel the Confederate flag is offensive because the Ku Klux Klan adopted it in the early 1950's. He explained that there were over five million members in the Klan at one time and 60% were from the north. He said that Ohio, Indiana and Illinois had 40% of the Klan membership in the 1920's. He stated that it was not just the southerners who were white supremacists and bigots. He added that he hopes today's teachers are not teaching their students that the southerners were evil people. Mr. Leary said he is proud to be an American and he cannot think of any other country he would rather live in than the United States, but he is even more proud to be a southerner from North Carolina. He added that he understands where the opposition is coming from and he hopes Mr. Rivers did not mean it when he said all symbols of slavery in the south should be removed. He asked if this also means that southerners should stop growing cotton, or that the Dismal Swamp Canal should be filled in. He stated that he does not want history to be completely rearranged and he urged everyone to learn the facts.

Mr. Lee Hart from Suffolk, Virginia explained that he wants to make a point that his roots run deep in Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County. He said he has Confederate ancestors spread all over North Carolina. He stated that the men and boys who left here to defend home and family would be saddened and in tears because of what is happening. He said their flags and their history have been so widely misused and misunderstood. He stated that the battle flag was simply that, but has been misused since the war just as the U.S. Flag has been misused. Mr. Hart

said southerners do not condone anything that distorts true history of the southland and the War Between the States. He added that taking down a Confederate monument is not the answer. He said history needs to be learned and people need to be tolerant and careful with what they do not understand. He asked the Board to make the right decision and cherish the Confederate monument as he has since he was a child.

Mr. Frank Earnest from Virginia Beach, Virginia stated that 40,275 from North Carolina died during the Civil War, more than from any other state. He said 40,275 North Carolinians fought for one thing and one thing only and died for one thing and one thing only, and that was North Carolina, just as Virginians fought for the defense of Virginia. He stated that an unimaginable number of North Carolinians suffered in prisoner of war camps, lost limbs, and lost everything they had and they only fought for North Carolina. He said if the Confederate monument is removed, any World War I and World War II monuments should be removed as well.

Mr. Ken Bateman of 507 Small Drive stated that this has all become a part of something that was said in 1965 by Paul Harvey in his radio show, "If I Were the Devil". He said the mesmerizing media has inflamed the country in trying to create some racial divide. He stated that our country is a strong country and we are all Americans, whether African Americans, English Americans, Scottish Americans, Scandinavian Americans, or whatever. He said yes, slavery was bad, but the monument represents the heroes of the Civil War and was erected several years after the war ended. He stated that this monument is similar to the streets and monuments in this country that were named or erected to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the work that he has done. He said Dr. King would be turning over in his grave if he saw what is going on today and the division that is happening in this country.

Mr. Scott Carraway of Suffolk, Virginia said his family was from Pitt County, North Carolina and his great great uncle was killed in the Civil War defending North Carolina. He stated that people are making this a black and white issue, and it is a black and white issue. He said behind his house in Suffolk a black soldier is buried who fought for the south. Mr. Carraway said it was not about slavery.

Ms. Susan Carraway said there were black Confederate soldiers in the Civil War. Some of them were slaves, but they were not forced to fight. She passed out a picture of Confederate veterans that fought for Pasquotank County and North Carolina who were there the day the Confederate monument was dedicated on the Courthouse grounds. She said the monument bears the inscription "Our Heroes" and these men were Pasquotank County's and Elizabeth City's heroes because they died defending their families and their homes. She said most of these men did not have slaves and they did not go to fight for the rich men who owned slaves, but fought to defend their families. She stated that only 2% to 6% of the soldiers actually had slaves. Ms. Carraway noted that another inscription says, "To Our Confederate Dead, Erected by the D.H. Hill Chapter United Daughters of the Confederacy, Elizabeth City, North Carolina May 10, 1911". She stated that she hopes the Board takes what everyone has said into consideration and their feelings on their southern heritage and the fact that their ancestors fought to defend their homes and their families. She added that things may have been totally different today if it were not for what these soldiers did.

Mr. C.L. Cooke of South McMorrine Street said he is a retired educator. He said the monument beside the Courthouse honors loved ones and soldiers slain in battle and it could be viewed as a headstone in a family cemetery. He stated that those who want to dishonor their memory might learn some history. He explained that slavery did not start in the south and since before recorded history slavery was found in most cultures of Africa, the Mediterranean and Asia. He said African tribes fought and sold their captives for profit and goods. He stated that this practice is still occurring today in the form of human trafficking. He said the business of human trafficking, bigotry, and ethnic and cultural division is disgusting. He stated that we live in a poor Congressional District and it is designed that way and is perpetuated. Mr. Cook said he too has a dream that before he dies adults will be not judging by the color of one's skin, but by the content of one's character. He added that he hopes the Board's decision will be made in the spirit of community, inclusion, and with divine guidance.

Mr. Richard Wade Reid of 577 Body Road stated that the feelings of everyone should be considered which is one of the reasons he is wearing a shirt tonight displaying the Constitution of the United States. He said his forefathers fought for North Carolina in the American War Between the States to defend the precepts, the principles and the legality of the laws that were

formed by our founding fathers. He stated that he has read two books about the Civil War in North Carolina. He explained that Edward Wilde led the punitive occupation of Elizabeth City in the Civil War and led a detachment of 5,500 black troops. He said there are placards near the Courthouse that describe some of the things that happened in that campaign. He stated that the campaign was described by other Union officers as the most brutal warfare on the civilian population in the whole Civil War. Mr. Reid said the Confederate monument was legitimately erected and given in memory of the people who fought to defend the population of Elizabeth City. He explained that Union officers placed the blame for most of the Civil War on the sensationalist northern press. He added that he would like to see the Confederate monument remain standing.

Ms. Rebecca Trueblood of 300 West Church Street stated that she is a born and bred southerner and is proud of it. She said she has lived in Pasquotank County 90% of her life and has two children that she home schools who were born and raised in Pasquotank County which she believes is the best place possible to raise her children. She said she teaches them social studies, teaches them about Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln, and southern pride heritage. She explained that she is an Irish Cherokee and she would not change that, nor would she change the town that she grew to love and raised her children to love and respect. She stated that she brings in children who are homeless or helpless, regardless of their color, because she's southern, they are her neighbors, and that is the way it is supposed to be.

Mr. Earl Rountree from Sunbury stated that he would like to thank the Cherokees for what they did for the southerners during the Civil War. He said this is his south and most of his family members were southerners as far back as it goes and this is why he is here defending the monument. He stated that his family came to North Carolina from the British Isles in 1699. He said he loves his culture and his heritage and does not have a problem with anyone else's culture or heritage, but he does have a problem with people wanting to tear down monuments. He referred to a letter to the editor in today's newspaper by Mary Griffin. He suggested that everyone get a copy of *The Daily Advance* and read the letter because she said it all and did a great job. Mr. Rountree stated that the American people need to stand up for their heritage.

Mr. John Woodard explained that he has looked at the cost of operations for the Solid Waste Department and in reviewing the costs for Pasquotank County's operations compared to surrounding counties he found that Pasquotank County's costs for removal of refuse and related activities are over \$1 million per year more than the costs of the surrounding counties' Solid Waste Department operations. He said this has been going on for over three years and he believes the Board should look into it.

Mr. Thaddeus Hooker from Elizabeth City stated that it has not been touched on who is bringing up this issue regarding the Confederate monument and that is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He asked why it is not the National Association for the Advancement of the American People. He said an organization that requires its members to be a certain race to hold a membership is not right. He stated that the NAACP's request is not just an attempt to remove a monument, but is an attempt to erode the American way of life. He pointed out that people are not being held responsible for their own actions. He said the person who shot nine people in South Carolina was wearing a Gold's Gym t-shirt. He asked if all the Gold's Gyms everywhere should be closed. Mr. Hooker explained that he is of Native American descent, he married a white woman, and his children identify as white. He stated if someone who is white has a conservative view and has morals and ethics and is not going along with what is happening, they are supposed to shut up and sit down and he is not going to do it. He said he is simply asking that we stop dividing ourselves and share and embrace in the monuments of everybody's culture. He said although he is Native American, he does not have a statue for his people who were trampled by the American Army, but he does not use that as an excuse to promote racism. He asked that everyone come together as a people and stop letting a monument that is meant to honor the people who died to support their way of life come between them. He said he loves all the people whether they are white or black.

Ms. Holly Koerber stated that a little over ten years ago there was a debate in the community about naming a street after Martin Luther King and she remembers getting an opportunity just like this one to address the elected board. She said she had an opportunity to speak her mind, and on that particular issue she thought it was very important for the Board to be reminded that a very significant part of the population, regardless of whether they were black or white, female or male, felt very strongly that the community should commemorate a historic figure. She said the

families of those who were killed in South Carolina recently said that the horrible human being who took innocent lives deserved forgiveness. She stated that those folks understood the value of life. She said every single time this nation has taken the lives of soldiers and politicized them for a feeling of a moment or a passion of some, it has regretted it. She stated that everyone remembers the Vietnam War Era and what happened to people in this nation who assumed a uniform on behalf of their country and had no view of the cause itself. Those who fought in uniform did so for their nation, not for the cause, and they were politicized and devalued. She asked that the Board learn from that most recent moment in history and never politicize the life of someone who put on the uniform. She stated that life deserves to be valued in this nation and those who put on a uniform to fight for liberty deserve recognition. She said everyone needs to learn from the mistakes in history.

Mr. Richard Gilbert of 1623 Penny Drive stated that this is nothing more than an attempt to rewrite history and divide the community again and an attempt by the press to divide the United States. He said it is all political. He explained that Confederate soldiers, sailors, and marines that fought in the Civil War were made U.S. Veterans by an Act of Congress in 1957. Additionally, under U.S. Public Law 810 approved by the 17th Congress on February 26, 1929, the War Department directed to erect headstones and recognize Confederate gravesites as U.S. war dead gravesites. Mr. Gilbert noted that the last Confederate veteran died in 1958. He said in essence when a Confederate statue, monument or headstone is removed, it is the same as removing a statue, monument or headstone of a U.S. Veteran. He added that he is more disappointed because the man who has raised this issue is a veteran himself and obviously he has forgotten his oath.

Mr. Keith Rivers of Elizabeth City said he is speaking on behalf of the Pasquotank Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and is not here to debate the meaning of the Confederate flag, but to bring to the Board's attention one of the things that has made America a great nation. He said that is the ability of elected officials to have respect, compassion and sensitivity to all Americans. He stated that at one time prayer was accepted in the public schools, but now it is not because not all Americans share the same religious beliefs. He said prayer at government meetings has been modified so that no one religion is promoted over another. He explained that the public school system does not allow anything that is offensive to others to be worn in school or at school functions, i.e. the Confederate flag. He said Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut was torn down so as to not be a reminder of the senseless blood that was shed. Mr. Rivers said when officials take an oath, they used to use the term "I swear", but now can say "I affirm". He stated that all of these are examples of legislatures passing laws to show compassion, respect and sensitivity to all Americans. He said it is their hope that the Board of Commissioners will show the same respect, compassion and sensitivity that legislatures across the nation have shown towards the Confederate flag on government property. He pointed out that there is a statue on the Courthouse lawn of a Confederate soldier that displays the Confederate flag above the words, "Our Heroes". He asked the Board to have respect, compassion and sensitivity to all the residents of Pasquotank County by removing the monument from public property that bears the Confederate flag and that is a constant reminder of lynching, oppression and slavery.

Chairman Winslow explained that the Board is here tonight to receive information. He thanked everyone for their input and said the Board will consider the information received and determine what it will do.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2015 Commissioner Meeting
Commissioner Bettie Parker requested a correction to item 19 in the minutes. She noted that she abstained from voting on the motion and her vote should therefore be counted as a yes vote which would mean the motion carried by a six to one margin.
- b. Approval of Tax Refunds and Solid Waste Fee Release
The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax refunds and solid waste fee release:

Tax Refunds:

	County	City
1. Patrick Lamont Riddick		118.53
2. Ivory Jean Williams	191.51	154.97
3. Osasogie Diana Ero	127.78	
4. James Eason	148.20	
5. James T. & Barbara N. Fletcher	143.28	

Solid Waste Fee Release:

OWNER'S NAME	PARCEL ID NUMBER	REASON FOR RELEASE
James E. Pool Heirs	P64-60	Not livable - Unoccupied since 1994

c. Approval of Budget Amendment

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following budget amendment to appropriate funds for the receipt and expenditure of grants funds from Homeland Security:

EMS

Increase	010.0240.4380.25	Federal Grants	99,196.00
Increase	010.4370.5490.00	Grant Match	99,196.00

d. Approval of Request from College of The Albemarle to Use Excess Roof Repair Funds for Parking Lot Repairs

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve a request from College of The Albemarle to re-purpose anticipated excess funds of approximately \$18,500 from a roof repair project and apply toward the cost of parking lot repairs.

e. Approval to Hire Computer Support Technician above the Hiring Rate

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve the hiring of a computer support technician for the IT Department above the hiring rate at Grade 16, Step 7, \$36,518 due to the education and work experience of the applicant.

f. Approval of Request for Occupancy Tax Funds from the Highway 17 Association

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve an appropriation of \$1,000 in dues for the Highway 17 Association with funds coming from tourism (occupancy tax) funds. An application for tourism funds will need to be submitted to the Tourism Development Authority.

g. Approval of Request for Occupancy Funds from Arts of the Albemarle

The Finance Committee has requested that the Board approve an appropriation of \$15,000 to Arts of the Albemarle from tourism (occupancy tax) funds. An application for tourism funds will need to be submitted to the Tourism Development Authority.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Jeff Dixon to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

7. DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

The Board considered the designation of a voting delegate for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference that will be held in Pitt County August 20-23.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Frankie Meads to designate Chairman Joe Winslow as the voting delegate and Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry as the alternate delegate for the NCACC Annual Conference. The motion carried unanimously.

8. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE STEPPING UP INITIATIVE:

The Board considered a resolution supporting the Stepping Up Initiative being led by the National Association of Counties. Chairman Winslow explained that Stepping Up is a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in county jails. The National Association of Counties is one of several partners in this effort which also includes the National Sheriffs Association and the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Jeff Dixon to adopt the following resolution supporting the Stepping Up Initiative. The motion carried unanimously.

**“Stepping Up Initiative to
Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails”**

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jails each year; and

WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in confinement facilities are three to six times higher than for the general population, with statistics showing that almost 13% of North Carolina’s prison population requires some type of intervention due to mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and

WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses can continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals, their families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, county jails are generally an unsafe environment for those with mental health treatment needs; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners has undertaken a serious effort to address the local service needs of those with mental illnesses through the appointment of a special Task Force; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County, like all counties, takes pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of our residents in efficient, safe, and socially just ways; and

WHEREAS, through the Stepping Up Initiative, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation are encouraging counties to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in county jails;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Pasquotank County:

1. That the Board of Commissioners does hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail and commits to sharing lessons learned with other counties in North Carolina and across the country to support the Stepping Up Initiative; and
2. That the Board of Commissioners will utilize resources available through the Stepping Up Initiative and other resources provided by the Council of State Governments Justice Center to convene a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies who are committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails; and
3. That this team will utilize the comprehensive resources available through the Stepping Up Initiative to develop a plan to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in the county jails for 2016-2020, consistent with the Council of State Governments Justice Center report and recommendations, to be presented to the Board of Commissioners at its first meeting in December 2015.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 13th day of July, 2015.

9. APPROVAL OF SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF A MACK TRUCK FOR THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT:

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve the sole source purchase of a Mack transfer truck for the Solid Waste Department at a total cost of \$118,000.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to approve the sole source purchase of a Mack transfer truck for the Solid Waste Department at \$118,000.

Discussion followed and Commissioner Frankie Meads stated that there should be at least three bids for this truck since it will cost over \$100,000. He said when equipment is financed the county normally gets three bids. He stated that he is probably more familiar with heavy trucks than anyone else on the Board and the majority of staff. He explained that most trucks this size are built one piece at a time according to the specifications of the purchaser and the axles are made by one factory and the engines are made by three different manufacturers. He said without at least two or three bids on this vehicle the county might not get the best price and the taxpayers of Pasquotank County would never know if they could have saved \$15,000 to \$20,000 on this truck. He added that it is a disservice to the people of Pasquotank County when these high price items are not put out for bids and he will vote no on the motion.

Chairman Winslow asked the County Manager to explain sole source purchase. Mr. Bunch explained that the county can use sole source purchase when only one manufacturer meets the specifications or when standardization is a consideration. He said the Mack truck meets the Solid Waste Department's specifications and the other trucks in the fleet are Mack trucks which would allow compatibility with the remaining fleet. He stated that the department has requested to purchase the Mack truck using sole source purchase based on these issues.

Commissioner Bettie Parker said it was indicated at today's Finance Committee meeting that this does not deviate from what has been done in the past as the county has purchased vehicles in other areas besides Solid Waste using sole source purchase in order to maintain consistency.

Commissioner William Sterritt stated that his personal opinion is that the county would be well served to take Commissioner Meads' recommendation under consideration. He said he does not think it would do any harm to get additional bids. He stated that the easy way for staff is to pick out something and buy it and not go through a process.

Commissioner Parker added that in the meeting when Mr. Etheridge was explaining this, it was mentioned there would be a delay until November in getting the truck and the department does need it. She said he simply asked for the truck to be purchased in this manner because it would be consistent with the trucks the department already has. She added that she questioned staff and they stuck with the recommendation to use sole source purchase. She noted that the Board could decide whether it wants to bid all vehicles in the future, however she believes in this particular instance that the Board would be well to do what was decided this afternoon in the Finance Committee meeting.

Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry stated that he believed it was agreed at the Finance meeting to accept the recommendation from staff to purchase a Mack truck using sole source purchase.

Chairman Winslow explained that sole source purchase is permitted by state statute under certain circumstances, one being when a needed product is available from only one source, and another is when standardization or compatibility is an overriding consideration.

The motion to approve the sole source purchase of a Mack truck carried by a four to three vote with Commissioners Perry, Dixon, Griffin, and Parker voting in favor, and Commissioners Winslow, Sterritt and Meads voting against the motion.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner William Sterritt reported that the Social Services Board met last Monday and the newest member, Andrea Williams, was sworn in. He stated that Bill Trueblood was elected as the new Chair of the Social Services Board and he will be a vital force.

Commissioner Sterritt advised that the Water Committee met recently and the recommendation from those present was that the Water Committee will meet quarterly instead of monthly.

Commissioner Frankie Meads suggested that the EMS Board might also want to consider changing its meetings from monthly to every other month if there is no business to take care of.

Commissioner Jeff Dixon thanked the County Manager for getting the limb removed that had fallen from a tree at Edgewood Center. He said the trees have been pruned and the grass has been mowed which greatly improved the appearance of Edgewood Center.

Commissioner Dixon reported that he, Commissioner Parker, Chairman Winslow, and the County Manager traveled to Raleigh for the Governor's press conference on his Connect NC Bond Proposal. He said almost all 100 counties were represented. He stated that they met with various state officials and state department heads and discussed how the bond proceeds would be used within their departments. He noted that Pasquotank County is not looking to gain a lot, but the feeling from all of the delegation there was that all local governments need to support this initiative as a group.

Commissioner Bettie Parker reported that on June 17 she carried greetings on behalf of Pasquotank County at the 105th Albemarle Annual Conference during their welcome program at Mount Lebanon AME Zion Church. On June 20 she and Chairman Winslow gave joint greetings to the opening of the Juneteenth Celebration at the waterfront. On June 24 she carried greetings on behalf of Pasquotank County to the Northeastern Coalition for Minority Small Farmers and Landowners Conference held in Pasquotank County. She reported that on June 30 she took a trip to Raleigh with fellow Commissioners and the County Manager and it was a good trip and was very informative. On July 1 she attended the Water Committee meeting. On July 14 she will attend the Library Board meeting and on August 6 she will attend a meeting of the Northern Regional Advisory Board of the newly formed Trillium Health Resources.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin reported that the Albemarle Commission has been active in its new budget year. He said Albemarle Commission is trying to expand its services into economic development. He reported that the Airport Authority is moving forward with its ramp expansion which will be phased in over the next three months.

Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry reported that the Jail Commission interviewed applicants for the Jail Administrator position this past week and there were seven candidates. He said they are now waiting for background checks on two of the applicants before making a final decision.

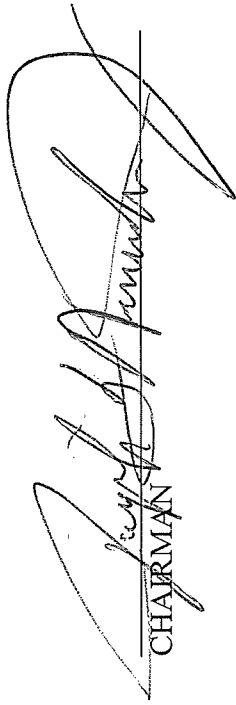
Chairman Winslow reported that he just returned from the National Association of Counties Annual Conference in Charlotte that started on Friday morning. He said he had to leave the conference early so he could be here for tonight's meeting. He stated that he was impressed because over 2,000 people were there from all over the country to exercise their right to vote on issues that will be presented to Congress. He said the guest speakers included Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and former Carolina basketball player Brad Daugherty.

Chairman Winslow stated that the groundbreaking ceremony for the Pasquotank County/Perquimans County wind turbine project will be held tomorrow. He stated that this is a \$400 million investment with 104 wind turbines being developed. He said the project is the starting point for this type of development in the southeastern part of the United States. He stated that he is hopeful this will have a positive impact on the local economy. He added that good things are happening in Pasquotank County and good things happened here tonight. He said everyone needs to pull together to make the county a better place.

The County Manager reported that the lobbying firm hired by the county met with him and the Chairman two weeks ago and they plan to meet again this Friday. Chairman Winslow added that this lobbyist stays on top of events every day. He said this should also have an effect on Pasquotank County and Northeastern North Carolina and maybe bring some things to Pasquotank County that are desperately needed.

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 unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM.


CHAIRMAN


CLERK TO THE BOARD