

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 3, 2015**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, August 3, 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

Chairman Winslow called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry gave the invocation and Commissioner William Sterritt led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Winslow welcomed the guests in the audience.

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 disbursement of EMS broken card printer to ID Wholesaler; and 2) Approval to add Steps 19 & 20 to the Salary Grade/Step Plan retroactive to July 1, 2015. County Attorney Mike Cox requested that an item be added to New Business to discuss the Camden Medical Park property.

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

2. COMMENTS FROM RAYMOND RIVERS:

Chairman Winslow recognized Mr. Raymond Rivers of 512 Magnolia Street. Mr. Rivers stated that he is here tonight in support of the letter the county received from the Pasquotank County Branch of the NAACP on the issue of removing the Confederate monument bearing the Confederate flag from the Courthouse grounds. He said he is in support of removing the monument because the Confederate flag is a symbol that is not accepted by all people. He stated that some people see the statue and the flag as a positive symbol, but for others it is a negative symbol, a symbol of hatred, a symbol of white oppression, bigotry and other negative things. Mr. Rivers said there are those who exercise their right to do certain negative things to others; there are those who use symbols to harm people; and there are those who use that symbol to kill people. He stated that the monument belongs in a museum and he hopes the Board will do the right thing by removing it.

3. COMMENTS FROM KEITH RIVERS:

Chairman Winslow recognized Mr. Keith Rivers who stated that he is appearing tonight on behalf of the Pasquotank County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He said the Board received a letter from the NAACP requesting removal of the monument that bears the Confederate flag and the words "Our Heroes" and the NAACP is back tonight to appeal to the Board as elected officials. He stated that the Board has a duty to take care of all of the citizens of Pasquotank County. He said there has been legislation introduced in the General Assembly related to historical monuments, but they still feel that the local elected officials should take a stand. He added that the Confederate flag has been associated with hate groups and hate crimes and it should be removed from the Courthouse grounds.

4. PRESENTATION OF PINS TO EMPLOYEES FOR YEARS OF SERVICE:

Chairman Winslow called on the following county employees to receive pins in recognition of their years of service to Pasquotank County:

Employee	Department	Years of Service
Karen Jennings	Clerk to the Board	30 years
Todd Wagner	Sheriff's Department	25 years
Jeffery Miller	Solid Waste Department	10 years

The Board congratulated the employees and thanked them for their service.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes of July 13, 2015 Commissioner Meeting
- b. Approval of Disbursement of EMS Broken Card Printer
The Finance Committee has recommended that a broken card printer from the EMS Department be disbursed to ID Wholesaler as a credit toward the purchase of a new card printer which cost \$1,762.94. ID Wholesaler has agreed to give the county credit in the amount of \$200 for the old printer.
- c. Approval of Amendment to Salary Grade/Step Plan
The Finance Committee has recommended approval of an amendment to the salary grade/step plan to include two additional steps (steps 19 & 20). Employees affected by the change would receive reimbursement back to July 1, 2015.

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

6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE HEALTH PLAN:

County Manager Rodney Bunch explained that he has been in contact with representatives from the North Carolina State Health Plan to look at the possibility of Pasquotank County being able to join the State Health Plan, as it also considers other options for next year. Session Law 2015-112 enacted by the General Assembly this year allows units of local government to enroll in the State Health Plan. Mr. Bunch said in order for Pasquotank County to be considered for enrollment, the Board needs to adopt a resolution expressing the county's interest in participating in the plan. He stated that his understanding is that the plan will accept up to 10,000 new members from local governments next year.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Cecil Perry to adopt the following resolution requesting that Pasquotank County be considered for participation in the North Carolina State Health Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PASQUOTANK COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE HEALTH PLAN

WHEREAS, Session Law 2015-112 was enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly on June 24, 2015 allowing units of local government, including Pasquotank County, to enroll in the North Carolina State Health Plan; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute 135-48.47 requires Pasquotank County to submit a resolution legally adopting the North Carolina State Health Plan for provision of health insurance benefits to its employees and their dependents; and

WHEREAS, by adopting this resolution Pasquotank County agrees to comply with all the statutory requirements of an existing employing unit under Chapter 135 of the North Carolina General Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Pasquotank County wishes to be considered for enrollment of its employees in the North Carolina State Health Plan and, in doing so, would agree, at a minimum, to make contributions as required by the provisions of the State Health Plan.

Adopted this 3rd day of August, 2015.

7. UPDATE ON CAMDEN MEDICAL PARK PROPERTY:

County Attorney Mike Cox explained that Pasquotank County is a one-third owner in the Camden Medical Park along with Camden County and the former East Carolina Behavioral Health. He stated that Pasquotank County basically acquired the property from Albemarle Hospital and does not have any hard funds in the property. He said the landscaping maintenance agreement among the three entities has expired and a quote of approximately \$9,300 has been received to maintain the property annually. Pasquotank County's portion of the cost would be about \$3,100 annually. Mr. Cox stated that there are a couple of concerns with the interlocal agreement for landscaping maintenance that has been proposed and he would like to bring it back to the Board for consideration at later date.

Mr. Cox explained that at the joint meeting of the Pasquotank and Camden County Boards of Commissioners it was the preference of both boards to divide the property with each entity owning its own building, curtilage and one-third of the common areas. He said in order to divide the property a survey will be needed. He asked the Board to approve Pasquotank County paying for one-third of a survey, however he does not have an estimate. He suggested that the Board possibly approve a not-to-exceed amount. He noted that the Board's goal is to get rid of the building and if the Board wants to offer it to another entity it could do that.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meads and seconded by Vice-Chairman Perry to take the first step of having a survey done for Pasquotank County's building in the Camden Medical Park for a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,000 as Pasquotank County's share. Commissioner Dixon said he will be voting against the motion because he believes this is an asset the county should have gotten rid of a long time ago. He stated that the county should not be going through all of this and that staff should be negotiating now to sell the property to Camden County. He stated that survey costs would take away from the county's proceeds if it does sell the property. He said the county does not have any money in the property and anything it sells the property for would be a gain. Commissioner Meads withdrew his motion and Vice-Chairman Perry withdrew his second. Mr. Cox stated that the county has never countered Camden County's offer. Chairman Winslow said some idea of the general worth of the property is needed before countering. Commissioner Meads suggested that a real estate agent should be able to provide an estimate as to the value of the property.

8. CONSIDERATION OF PETITION FOR ADDITION OF ROADS IN QUEENSWOOD SUBDIVISION TO THE STATE SYSTEM:

The Board reviewed a petition submitted by the developer of Queenswood Subdivision requesting the addition of Kingswood Boulevard, Enchanted Way, Princess Anne Circle, Crossbow Court, Excalibur Court, Noble Court, Prince William Drive, and Windsor Court in Queenswood Subdivision to the state system for maintenance.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Jeff Dixon to accept the petition from the developer and to adopt a resolution requesting the addition of Kingswood Boulevard, Enchanted Way, Princess Anne Circle, Crossbow Court, Excalibur Court, Noble Court, Prince William Drive, and Windsor Court in Queenswood Subdivision to the state system for maintenance. The motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSIDERATION OF LETTER TO GOVERNOR McCRORY IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL CONTROL ON FRACKING:

County Manager Rodney Bunch referred to a draft letter to Governor McCrory included with the agenda that Environment North Carolina has requested each county sign on to in support of local control of fracking. In March of this year the state's moratorium on fracking was lifted, leaving communities vulnerable to potential oil and gas development. Environment North Carolina believes if local governments are faced with fracking activity, they should be able to limit and prohibit the many aspects of fracking that impact residents directly. These aspects include whether a wastewater injection well will be allowed near drinking water sources, whether baseline environmental testing will be required before drilling begins, and if fracking and its infrastructure will be allowed at all.

Commissioner Jeff Dixon pointed out that local control also means that counties that elect to participate in fracking operations would have to keep the wastewater within their borders. After further discussion;

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Cecil Perry to authorize Chairman Winslow to sign on to the letter to Governor McCrory supporting local control of fracking. The motion carried unanimously.

10. REPORTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER:

County Manager Rodney Bunch reported that he and the County Attorney met with Mark and Jeanie Meads and with Carl Ralph to discuss Meads Pool. He noted that the Meads Pool lease will expire September 30th. He stated that a meeting will be set up with both parties together in order to move forward on this issue.

Mr. Bunch reported that he and Finance Officer Sheri Small met with Health Director Jerry Parks and Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath to discuss health insurance and they also discussed the resolution the Board adopted tonight regarding possibly joining the State Health Plan. He said they also discussed other options to work on as a group.

Mr. Bunch requested a short Closed Session at the end of tonight's meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

11. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Bettie Parker reported that she attended the Library Board meeting on July 14. She reported on some of the many activities of the Library and advised that the bookmobile is still up and running. She said tomorrow she and the County Manager will be serving lunch to Coast Guard personnel from 1:00 until 2:30 PM. Commissioner Parker stated that the Northern Regional Advisory Board for Trillium Health Resources has moved its meeting from August 6 to September 3 due to the meeting schedule of the governing board. She advised that Dr. Denauvo Robinson from Pasquotank County has been elected chair of the governing board.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin stated that the Airport Authority is moving forward with its ramp expansion and the project is about one-third complete. He reported that the Workforce Development Board has put together a stakeholders group with community involvement from school board members and school staff members. He said there is some activity on trying to broaden the scope of Workforce Development.

Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry stated that most everyone read the article in the newspaper concerning the sale of Albemarle Home Care, Albemarle Hospice, and Bertie Home Care. He said bids have been received and the process is moving forward. He noted that one of the major considerations in the discussion has been the retention of current employees.

Vice-Chairman Perry stated that at some point the Board needs to have a discussion regarding Confederate images. He said he thought at the last meeting there were some inaccuracies in what was said. He stated that most people understand and respect what has happened in the past, but by the same token people need to also respect what happened to everyone in the past and understand that not everyone is in tune with having images in front of them that had a negative impact on their lives. He added that the Board needs to be considerate of everyone in the community, not just one group.

Commissioner Jeff Dixon asked what the Health Department plans to do with the money it receives when it sells Albemarle Home Care. Vice-Chairman Perry said he has not heard what the Health Department plans to do with the money.

Chairman Joe Winslow gave members of the Board copies of a book entitled Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Service that Ms. Georgene Armstrong, President of the Pasquotank County Extension & Community Association, provided for each Commissioner in appreciation of the Board's support of the Extension Service.

12. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER:

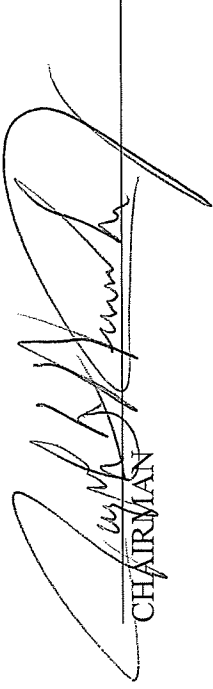
Chairman Winslow asked if there was any further business to come before the Board in Regular Session. There being no further business, he asked for a motion that the Board enter Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Jeff Dixon that the Board enter Closed Session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon the end of Closed Session;

Motion was made Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Cecil Perry that the Board return to Regular Session. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Cecil Perry to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.


CHAIRMAN


CLERK TO THE BOARD