

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
OCTOBER 15, 2012**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, October 15, 2012 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Lloyd Griffin who gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

1. COMMENTS FROM TOM MEMOLO:

Chairman Griffin recognized Mr. Tom Memolo to address the Board. Mr. Memolo stated that on behalf of his neighborhood he would like to thank Commissioner Bill Trueblood for his assistance in getting the fields adjacent to their subdivision cut. He said he would like the county's assistance in having a billboard sign at the intersection of Peartree Road and Rachel Drive removed. He stated that his neighbors maintain a good looking area and they do not want signs littering the area. Mr. Memolo suggested that Commissioner Trueblood hold a town meeting in his district to give the residents an opportunity to meet with him and ask questions. He said another issue he would like to address is tax for the schools. He stated that it seems to him that a lot of money is being spent on education, but the kids are not learning as they should. He said he does not mind money for the schools, but he believes the educational system needs to be improved. He also asked why his home is appraised at 50% less yet he is still paying the same amount of property taxes. Commissioner Trueblood explained to Mr. Memolo that counties are required to conduct a revaluation of property every eight years. When a property value decreases or increases during the eight year cycle, the property owner pays taxes on the value of the property established at the previous revaluation until the effective date of the new revaluation. The tax valuation does not change during that eight year cycle.

2. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Griffin asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Vice-Chairman Dixon requested that the following items recommended by the Finance Committee at its meeting today be added to the agenda: 1) Approval of lease with Kids First, Inc. for vacant space at Edgewood Center; 2) Approval of request to fill vacant Social Services position; 3) Approval of reallocation of 911 surcharge funds.

Motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Joe Winslow to amend the agenda to include the three items listed above. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Joe Winslow to move the three items above to the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes of October 1, 2012 Commissioner Meeting

- b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds
The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax releases and refunds:

Releases:

	County	City
1. Arbogast Painting	144.00	
2. JMM Plumbing & Utilities Inc.		102.46
3. Jennifer Hunter Covington	124.31	
4. Daniel Michael Serik	144.00	
5. John Thomas James	144.00	
6. Jamie Johnson	130.45	
7. Jeremy W. Humphries	112.16	
8. Curtis Dillon Albertson	111.88	
9. Robert E. Lee Heath	130.26	
10. David H. France	173.60	
11. William Brandon Robertson	108.19	
12. William Brandon Robertson	119.04	
13. Linwood Allan Moore	140.99	
14. W.W. Owens & Son Moving	1,856.90	1,392.68
15. Alexander Edward Kaczor	101.37	81.03
16. Associated Leasing LLC	144.00	
17. Alice M. Redding	288.00	
18. Darren Wayne Grubb	133.86	
19. Twiford IV LLC	144.00	
20. Kirk & Debra Williams	144.00	
21. Randy Frank Rowsey	130.95	
22. Glenna Properties LLC	144.00	
23. Johnny Lee Garcia	156.12	122.09

Refunds:

1. Lynn Chorey Moore		105.87
2. Water Street Properties	1,497.65	1,225.35
3. Water Street Properties	1,592.96	1,225.35
4. Water Street Properties	1,647.42	1,266.20
5. Water Street Properties	1,688.26	1,266.20

- c. Approval of Proposal to Continue Doing Business with Futura Recycling

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a proposal submitted by Futura Recycling to continue accepting recyclables from the Pasquotank County convenience centers in exchange for a payment of \$8 per ton. The recyclables include all paper products, plastic containers, aluminum cans, and metal cans.

- d. Approval of Family Subdivision Request #12-13

Staff has recommended approval of Family Subdivision Request #12-13 to create a gift lot for a child in accordance with Article 5, Section 303 of the Pasquotank County Subdivision Ordinance. The request is to create a gift lot of 1.67 acres to be conveyed to Doris J. Trueblood. The residual lot would be 1.67 acres. A total of 25 feet of road frontage is provided for the proposed lot off of Peartree Road. A birth certificate has been provided as documentation that the plat qualifies as a family subdivision. Staff has advised that the request meets the minimum requirements for a family subdivision.

- e. Approval of Request from DRS Technologies

DRS Technologies is requesting support from the Board for a reduced speed limit in the pedestrian crossing area or rumble strips/speed bumps on both sides of Consolidated Road near the crosswalk in front of the DRS building. The request is being made due to safety concerns for employees crossing the road from the parking lot to the building. The county would need to submit a letter to the Department of Transportation requesting that they investigate these options.

- f. Approval of Lease with Kids First, Inc. for Vacant Space at Edgewood Center

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve a lease with Kids First, Inc. for vacant space at Edgewood Center which was formerly occupied by The Arc of NC. The

lease would be for a five year term effective January 1, 2013. The county's current lease with East Carolina Behavioral Health would be amended to remove the property to be leased to Kids First, Inc. The county would directly lease the space to Kids First, Inc. for \$2 per square foot effective January 1, 2013.

g. Approval to Fill Vacant Position at Social Services Department
The Finance Committee has recommended that the Social Services Department be authorized to fill a vacant family and children's Medicaid position that has become vacant due to a resignation.

h. Approval of Reallocation of 911 Surcharge Funds
The Finance Committee has recommended that some unallocated 911 surcharge funds be reallocated for other public safety projects. A total of \$10,480 would be allocated with \$3,480 for the Durant's Neck tank tripod and \$7,000 for painting the tower on Wellfield Road.

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

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

Releases:

		County	City
1.	Taiesha Lashae Moore	13.77	10.33
2.	Aaron Brant Mohler	8.50	6.37
3.	Cory Terrell White	38.57	28.93
4.	Lucy Renee Foreman	10.17	
5.	William Jacob Amberger II	17.24	17.93
6.	William Jacob Amberger II	22.57	21.93
7.	Tina Cummings Lister	12.34	
8.	Tracey Hilleva Franklin	3.07	
9.	Alice M. Redding		36.00
10.	Kimberly Joy Rydel	20.77	
11.	David Earl Riddick, Sr. & Donna Miltiades	16.74	
12.	Bradley James Gardner	22.23	16.67
13.	Frances Whitehurst Thompson	16.43	
14.	Franklin Paul McDonald	60.39	
15.	Kenneth Elroy Cooper	7.10	5.33
16.	Christina Lee Shipp	6.64	4.98
17.	Ross Leonard Kutyla	28.28	
18.	Darren W. Grubb	51.83	
19.	Herman Ray Meads, Jr.	71.06	
20.	Peggy Hughes Byrum	87.11	70.33
21.	Brian Scott Clark	2.73	
22.	Twiford IV LLC	53.94	
23.	Mark Allen Provost	25.49	
24.	Shawnda Pool Overton	16.68	
25.	Ralph Gilbert Wiggins, Jr.	12.68	9.51
26.	Richard J. Boyd & Kelly J. Kampf	43.64	34.84
27.	Rose Riddick Spellman	8.13	
28.	James Richard Knight, Jr.	32.24	
29.	Brian Fredrick Rozos	29.27	21.95
30.	James Milton Eason, Jr.	62.69	
31.	Shields Robert Theron Gore	42.72	37.04
32.	Shields Robert Theron Gore	35.03	31.27
33.	Ida Iris Quinones	47.24	40.43
34.	Matthew Carl Evan Garner	6.39	
35.	Associated Leasing LLC	88.66	70.79
36.	Thomas Charles Austin	6.20	
37.	Richard Thurston Harvey	24.61	
38.	Richard Thurston Harvey	15.50	
39.	Richard T. Harvey	20.83	
40.	Doris Pappendick	39.37	29.53
41.	Lolita Lennette Turner	37.89	

42.	Medessa McPherson Brown	6.02	4.51
43.	George Francis Graig	13.58	
44.	John William Maze	49.60	
45.	Calvary Baptist Church	59.58	49.69
46.	Jeffrey Ray Hollingsworth	22.38	
47.	Cynthia Whidbee McCalop	33.67	25.25
48.	Daphne Bartholomew Warren	17.61	13.21
49.	Eric Karl Scheid	5.89	4.42
50.	Lakeeta Jenise Mitchell	18.91	14.19
51.	Rickey Dean Lowery	42.04	
52.	Thomas Avery Adkins	73.53	
53.	Johnathan Wesley Bravo	32.80	29.60
54.	Tracy Diane Kania	30.69	23.02
55.	Sean D' Angelo Mosby	68.08	
56.	Shelia Victoria Jones	9.61	7.21
57.	Chris Frederick Paulos	5.83	4.38
58.	Betty Jo Jones		41.60
59.	Ronald Harrison Lowe	16.47	12.35
60.	Veronia Lee Hibbets	7.44	5.58
61.	Anthony Emanuel Suchy	90.52	
62.	Linda Marshall Tripplett	26.73	20.05
63.	Kristin Renee Pelton	24.49	
64.	Timothy Carl Janz	52.58	
65.	Michael Darnell Collins	52.33	44.25
66.	Benjamin K. McPherson	75.02	
67.	Builders Container Svc. Inc.	62.81	
68.	Alexander Graham Bell	71.80	58.85
69.	Laurie Harrison Duncan	22.20	
70.	Leona Loretta Taylor	41.57	33.17
71.	Herbert Anthony McCalla		40.57

4. APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR AFFILIATION AGREEMENTS FOR ALBEMARLE HEALTH:

The Board reviewed the final draft of the Request for Proposals that has been developed by the Joint Task Force to seek affiliation agreements for Albemarle Health. County Attorney Mike Cox explained that the RFP was drafted through numerous meetings of the Joint Task Force and the public hearing that was held last month at COA. He said the plan is for this RFP to be sent to the parties who have executed confidentiality agreements between the Hospital Board, the Board of Commissioners, and the entities seeking to respond to the RFP. He noted that once the RFP is sent out, proposals must be submitted within 45 days. He added that the Hospital Board will be meeting tomorrow night to approve the RFP after which it can be released. The hospital's attorney expects it will take six to eight weeks to review the proposals once they are received.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Joe Winslow to approve as presented the Request for Proposals for affiliation agreements for Albemarle Health. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Trueblood asked if this RFP is the only document that will be provided to respondents or if additional information will be provided. It was explained that additional information, including financial information, will accompany the RFP.

Commissioner Trueblood noted that in his travels throughout the southern district, he has found that people are showing a lot of concern about the hospital and what is going on there. He said he is hearing that physician recruitment is key.

Commissioner Cecil Perry stated that one of the objectives of the RFP is physician recruitment. He added that according to information he has received it is almost impossible for a standalone hospital to be successful and it must affiliate with a larger hospital in order to survive.

Vice-Chairman Jeff Dixon explained that there is a lot of anxiety at the hospital regarding this RFP process for employees, staff and physicians because of the unknowns. He noted that the

staff changes that have recently been made will make a huge improvement in physician retention and recruitment.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER:

County Manager Randy Keaton reported that he has received an email from Anne Blindt informing him that the larger recycling company that has been looking at the area is no longer interested because there is not enough material here to recycle. He pointed out that Pasquotank County has just approved a proposal to continue doing business with Futura to handle recyclables and he believes the county got a good deal.

Mr. Keaton reported that the grinding operation at the landfill has been completed and the area is being prepared to accept and stockpile new concrete.

Mr. Keaton reported that he met with the Elizabeth City Rotary Club today and discussed the quarter cent sales tax, and is scheduled to meet with the Weeksville Lions Club this week as well as the Morning Rotary Club. He said 1,000 educational flyers have been printed and are available as handouts.

Mr. Keaton provided everyone with a copy of an article that appeared in "Carolina Business" about Pasquotank County.

6. REPORTS FROM ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER:

Assistant County Manager Rodney Bunch advised that a public hearing is scheduled for the first meeting in November on the sale of property in the Commerce Park for a New Holland dealership.

Mr. Bunch reported that the company was in today to begin the installation of shelving for file storage for the Clerk of Court. Once the files are moved to the new shelving, it will free up office space for three additional employees for the Public Defender's office.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner William Sterritt reported that Sheriff Randy Cartwright and District Attorney Frank Parrish met with the SPCA at its last meeting to discuss puppy mills, the sale of dogs and cats on roadsides, and vicious dogs. He advised that when the SPCA purchased its new building, it used all of the money it had been saving over 25 years. He said since the building was purchased, the SPCA has raised \$70,000 and has also applied for a \$500,000 grant which will be used toward building renovations if approved. He added that at the current time the new building is being rented by College of The Albemarle as a staging area and a storage area for equipment that will eventually be moved to Currituck County.

Vice-Chairman Jeff Dixon asked if the Chairman and Mayor have met to discuss agenda items for the upcoming city-county joint meeting. Mr. Keaton stated that he and the Chairman will meet with the Mayor and City Manager this week to finalize the items.

Vice-Chairman Dixon informed the Board that Occupancy Tax collections have taken a severe downturn since July. He noted that in some months the revenues have been off by 23%. He said the Tourism Development Authority is not sure if this is something that will cycle out or if it is the result of the completion of some big construction contract in the community. He added that some of the monthly revenues are matching the revenues of two years ago.

Vice-Chairman Dixon reported that the funds for the Highway 17 Association are drying up and its staff has had to take a 10% cut in pay to make up for the shortfall.

Commissioner Bill Trueblood stated that the breakfast with Senator Burr and the ribbon-cutting at the Coast Guard Rescue Swimmer facility are on the same day. He asked if staff could make arrangements for those attending both events to ride together because timing will be critical and parking may be an issue. Mr. Keaton stated that he will drive the county van and take those who want to attend the two events.

Commissioner Trueblood stated that tomorrow morning Commissioner White, the County Manager and he are meeting with the EMS Special Projects group. He advised that they are working on a long range plan for EMS for the next five years.

Commissioner Cecil Perry reported that Albemarle District Jail is in the process of implementing video arraignment.

Commissioner Perry stated that he has not said very much recently about restructuring the Board because of the upcoming election. He said however that he hopes members of the Board will join him in looking at the possibility of restructuring in order to increase the number of minorities that sit on the Board.

Chairman Griffin stated that former County Commissioner Hugh Clinkscales passed away last week. He said Mr. Clinkscales was a very good friend of Pasquotank County and served two terms on the Board. He stated that he put Pasquotank County in the recreation business and was committed to the aviation community.

Chairman Griffin noted that members of the Board have received complimentary tickets to Fright Nights from the Fraternal Order of Police. He requested that a letter be sent to FOP thanking them for the tickets.

Vice-Chairman Dixon said he continues to read in the NACo newsletter about the county drug card program. He stated that he understands there is potential revenue of \$1 to the county every time the card is used. The County Manager advised that the county had the option of receiving \$1 on every prescription, however the cost of the prescriptions would increase slightly. The Board voted about a year ago to not receive the \$1 fee so that patients using the card would not have to pay a higher percentage of the cost of the prescriptions they purchase with the card.

Commissioner Perry advised that this week is Elizabeth City State University's Homecoming. He said the homecoming has a tremendous impact on the hotel industry. He invited everyone to attend the homecoming game on Saturday. Chairman Griffin added that it was mentioned during one of the candidate forums last week that Elizabeth City State University's economic impact on Pasquotank County is about \$112 million and homecoming weekend is a part of that equation.

8. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION OPPOSING INSURANCE RATE INCREASE:

Chairman Griffin referred to a recent email from NC-20 regarding a proposed 30% increase in property insurance rates for the eighteen coastal counties. He said the rates in the eastern counties will be higher than any in the state. He said an insurance rate hearing will be held this Wednesday in Raleigh and he suggested that the Board send a letter or statement expressing the Board's opposition to the proposed rate increase. Vice-Chairman Dixon suggested that a resolution be sent to the Insurance Commissioner.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Bill Trueblood to adopt a resolution opposing the proposed property insurance rate increase and to send it to the Insurance Commissioner and the county's representatives in the General Assembly. The motion carried unanimously and the following resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING INSURANCE RATE INCREASE

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Rate Bureau, in its capacity as a representative of the insurance industry, has submitted a Homeowners Insurance Rate Filing to the North Carolina Department of Insurance; and

WHEREAS, the Rate Filing represents an overall average statewide increase of 17.7% in homeowners insurance rates to become effective June 1, 2013, however a 30% rate increase has been filed for eighteen eastern North Carolina counties including Pasquotank County; and

WHEREAS, the cost of homeowners insurance affects the affordability of housing, financing, re-financing and economic development, and this Rate Filing comes at a time when citizens are still struggling to recover from the economic downturn of the last few years; and

WHEREAS, homeowners in Eastern North Carolina already pay premiums almost six times higher than the rates charged on more inland properties. The amount of the requested rate increase alone in the coastal counties is more than the full premiums currently paid by homeowners in areas such as Charlotte, Mecklenburg and Greensboro, and if approved, it would result in an even greater statewide disparity in the cost of homeowners insurance for our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the annual severe weather report summary for 2011 provided by NOAA clearly shows that the entire state is at risk of severe weather and catastrophic loss from wind, tornadoes, hail, and ice, and many areas are more at risk than Eastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, hurricane damage is not limited to the eighteen coastal counties, as the Raleigh and Charlotte areas have experienced significant losses from hurricanes over the years; and

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners feels that the requested rate increase is excessive, unfairly discriminatory and not in the public interest.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners opposes the proposed Homeowners Insurance Rate Filing as unjustified and unnecessary and urges North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin to disapprove the Rate Filing.

ADOPTED the 15th day of October, 2012.

Chairman Griffin asked if there was anything further to come before the Board. There being no further business, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Cecil Perry to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.


CLERK TO THE BOARD


CHAIRMAN