

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
NOVEMBER 3, 2014**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, November 3, 2014 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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 Jeff Dixon. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Joe Winslow led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBER OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY:

Commissioner Cecil Perry introduced Mr. Darian Jones, a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity at Elizabeth City State University. He said the fraternity wants to learn what county government is all about and promote community involvement to help make the community a better place to live. Mr. Jones stated that he is a Junior at ECSU and is a Business Administration major from Brooklyn, New York, and looks forward to learning more about Pasquotank County. The Board thanked Mr. Jones for his interest in county government.

2. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Dixon asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Vice-Chairman Winslow requested that the agenda be amended to add the following items recommended by the Finance Committee: 1) Approval of request from Newland Water Management District Committee for funds to clear and snag the U.S. 158 canal and the upper Pasquotank River; 2) Approval of revised building permit fee schedule for wind turbines; and 3) Approval of change in post-65 retiree health insurance plan and approval to discontinue supplemental health insurance for post-65 retirees for employees hired after January 1, 2015.

Motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Joe Winslow to add the three items listed 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 20, 2014 Commissioner Meetings

b. 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. Five C's Inc.	379.58	
2. Five C's Inc.	566.24	
3. Five C's Inc.	175.69	138.05
4. Johnnie Ray Gray Etal		1,000.00
5. John M. Jr. & Mary R. Taylor Revocable Trust	577.20	

6.	David Wesley Ownley		116.28
7.	MEKT Holdings LLC	131.46	106.40
8.	River City Holdings	241.98	196.80

Refunds:

1.	Rhonda Twiddy		491.72	397.91
2.	Mary Kirby Rodgerson		430.64	189.36

Solid Waste Releases:

Owner's Name	Parcel ID Number	Reason for Release
Bessie H. Bartell Life Est.	58-K-59	Vacant since 2012
Theodore R. & Edna Hudson	79-E-164-165	Vacant 10 years
Capt. Medina Dukes Jones	P58-34	Vacant since 2008
Capt. Medina Dukes Jones	26-H-6	Vacant since 2008
Terry Meads	P6-21A	Vacant since 2004

c. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

Special Appropriations

Decrease	010.5910.5630.00	Current Expense	1,144,000.00
Increase	010.5910.5636.00	Capital Outlay	1,144,000.00

d. Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Removal of Record Books Kept by the Register of Deeds for Repair, Restoration and Rebinding

The Register of Deeds has requested that the Board adopt the following resolution authorizing removal of four volumes of birth certificates from the Register of Deeds Office for repair, restoration and rebinding. The books will be removed to the care and custody of C.W. Warthen Court Resources. Funds are included in the current budget for repair and restoration of the records.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
REMOVAL OF CERTAIN PUBLIC RECORD BOOKS
KEPT BY THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR
THE PURPOSE OF REPAIR, RESTORATION AND REBINDING

WHEREAS, N. C. Gen. Stat. Sec. 132-7 provides that books of public records should be copied or repaired, renovated or rebound if worn, mutilated, damaged or difficult to read; and

WHEREAS, there is identified certain books of public records maintained by the Register of Deeds in need of repair, restoration and rebinding; and

WHEREAS, Records Conservation Laboratory/C. W. Warthen Court Resources, Brown's Summit, NC is under contract to provide repair, restoration and rebinding of those certain books of public records.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, that:

Section 1. The Register of Deeds is authorized to remove or cause to be removed to the care and custody of C.W. Warthen Court Resources for repair, restoration and rebinding the following books of public records:

Birth Certificate Volume 36 Year of 1947
Birth Certificate Volume 37 Year of 1948
Birth Certificate Volume 38 Year of 1949
Birth Certificate Volume 39 Year of 1950

Section 2. The books of public records listed in Section 1 of this resolution may remain in the care and custody of C. W. Warthen Court Resources for the length of time required to repair, restore or rebind them.

Section 3. This resolution is effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED the 3rd of November, 2014.

- e. Approval of Request from Newland Water Management District Committee
The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a request from the Newland Water Management District Committee for \$15,000 from the Newland Drainage District Fund for clearing and snagging the U.S. 158 canal and the upper Pasquotank River and for controlling beaver activity.
- f. Approval of Revised Building Permit Fee Schedule for Wind Turbines
The Finance Committee has recommended that the building permit fee schedule for wind turbines be increased to \$1,000 per turbine.
- g. Change in Post-65 Retiree Health Insurance Plan
The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve purchasing supplemental health insurance for post-65 retirees through AmWINS Groups Benefits for \$296 per month per retiree beginning January 1, 2015.
- The Finance Committee has also recommended that the county discontinue providing supplemental health insurance for post-65 retirees for all employees that are hired after January 1, 2015.
- County Attorney Mike Cox said if there are going to be changes to the Personnel Policy as a result of the Board's action tonight, an amendment will be prepared for signature. The County Manager noted that there are a few more issues to be discussed with regard to the Personnel Policy and he will schedule a meeting of the Personnel Committee to consider these matters.
- Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion carried.
- 4. REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER:**
County Manager Rodney Bunch reported that he and Planning Director Shelley Cox attended a one-day seminar last week that focused on the renewal of the North Carolina Rural Center. He said there were about 400 attendees at the seminar. He stated that a resource fair during the afternoon included 43 vendors, several who work with grants such as Golden Leaf Foundation, N.C. Department of Commerce CDBG programs, and DENR CDBG programs for infrastructure. He noted that the School of Government was represented and he inquired whether the School of Government can help find grants and write grants as has previously been suggested by the Board. He said he was informed that the School of Government is not involved in grant-writing.
- Mr. Bunch stated that the Building Inspections Department has been busy with inspections for the solar project and has fallen behind on fire inspections. He said he interviewed an Elizabeth City fireman last week who has level 3 certificates and who sometimes helps the city with fire inspections, and he is willing to assist the county with fire inspections on his days off. He stated that he has hired this individual for 90 days as a temporary employee and he will be paid an hourly rate plus mileage because he will drive his own vehicle. Commissioner Griffin asked if a county vehicle can be made available for these inspections. Mr. Bunch said to his knowledge there is not a county vehicle available. Mr. Bunch added that he may be hiring an additional temporary inspector to assist until the fire inspections can be completed.
- Mr. Bunch advised the Board that he moved into the County Manager's Office last week.

- 5. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**
Commissioner William Sterritt announced that he will be out of town on November 17 and will not be able to attend the Commissioner meeting that evening. He said he would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Commissioner White on four years of hard work as a County Commissioner. He stated that the Board will miss him and he doesn't know what the Board will do without him.
- Commissioner Gary White said the Building & Grounds Committee met today and he will defer to Commissioner Griffin to report on the meeting.
- Commissioner Cecil Perry referred to a letter from School Superintendent Linwood Williams requesting that a member of the Board of Commissioners be appointed to serve on a Parent/Community Involvement Committee that is being established by the school district. After reviewing the letter the Board agreed to delay selection of a Commissioner to serve on the committee until after the new Board is seated and new committee appointments are made.

Commissioner Perry stated that the Jail Commission will be meeting on November 6 and he invited anyone who would like to attend.

Commissioner Perry stated that two incumbent Commissioners are on the ballot in tomorrow's election and he reminded everyone to vote. He added that he would also like to congratulate Commissioner Gary White on his four years of service.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin reported that this afternoon the Building & Grounds Committee met and is working through a list of needs. He stated that the Board needs to give some direction on the roof at Edgewood Center. He said it would cost \$250,000 to completely repair the roof, however there may be an alternative that will cost less. He stated that the Maintenance Superintendent is trying to maintain the wooden windows and sashes around the Courthouse. He reported that a clean bill of health has been received for the air quality in the Public Safety Building. Commissioner Griffin said at the next meeting a budget should be presented for a method of heating the Courthouse lobby. Commissioner White said the lobby is now permanently assigned two deputies for Courthouse security. He stated that the lobby would be extremely cold for the deputies to cover an eight hour shift during the winter months because it is totally cut off from any heat or air conditioning.

Commissioner Griffin said he spoke with the RPO Director today and part of the next RPO meeting on November 12 will be discussion about the diversionary road plan through Currituck into Dare County. He stated that there are issues with hurricane evacuation routes and congestion areas. He said he wants the Board to be aware that they are looking at ways to address this crisis.

Vice-Chairman Joe Winslow reported that he recently attended the Committee of 100 meeting and at that meeting representatives from the state were promoting broadband within the local area. They indicated the lines have been installed and at this time he understands that only three agencies are currently on that particular broadband: one is Elizabeth City State University; one is the Economic Development Commission; and the other is the City of Elizabeth City. Vice-Chairman Winslow said others want to get on broadband, but the rate is very high. He said the broadband speed is several times faster than the speeds offered by the telephone company and is what many businesses are looking for. He suggested that the County Manager look into the possibility of subscribing to this broadband for the county. Chairman Dixon stated that the issue is the "last mile" and businesses are looking for some type of incentives to extend fiber optic to them from the grid because the cost to lay fiber optic is \$1,000 per foot. Vice-Chairman Winslow said it needs to be promoted in order to give businesses this capability.

Vice-Chairman Winslow said when Governor McCrory was in town last Friday, he spoke about DOT's 25-year plan. He said he and Commissioner White were able to talk with Division Engineer Jerry Jennings during the luncheon and asked why the first leg of the U.S. 17/U.S. 64 Interstate that is proposed cannot be within a certain number of miles of the Virginia border because there would not be as much infrastructure affected. He said in 2016 the deep water ships will be coming into the Norfolk port and he hopes Northeastern North Carolina does not miss out on an opportunity for better highways to bring industry to the area. Chairman Dixon explained that the Highway 17 Commission is working in conjunction with the project and the bottlenecks will be in Perquimans County. He said the City of Hertford and the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners are not in favor of it because there can be no stoplights. He added that in Chowan County each of the six overpasses will have to be raised to 16½ feet. He stated that the reason this interstate highway is being considered is not because it will benefit Northeastern North Carolina, but because it will benefit Raleigh.

Chairman Dixon stated that there was a good attendance at the Governor's press conference last week and several Commissioners were there. He said the Governor announced that \$5 million is going to be made available for repairs to Runway 119 at the Elizabeth City Regional Airport.

Chairman Dixon reported that he attended a reception for Dr. Stacey Jones, Chancellor at Elizabeth City State University, last week and he had a conversation with Holly Koerber who is sitting on the Northeast Alliance Board. He said she was not aware that she has an ex officio position on the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Economic Development Commission. He stated that he invited her to attend the EDC meetings.

Chairman Dixon said he would like to thank Vice-Chairman Winslow and Commissioner Perry for attending the State of Education Breakfast. He stated that it went very well and it appeared to him that the private sector schools outdid the public sector schools somewhat. He said there was a presentation about the great things that former students from Pasquotank County are doing, including one who is attending the Naval Academy.

Vice-Chairman Winslow stated that he attended a meeting of the Sentara Advisory Board last week and he was surprised to see the enthusiasm regarding the future of the hospital. He said Sentara is very positive about the future and indicated that Albemarle Hospital has moved further in seven months than other hospitals have done in three years. He added that Sentara has stated that it could take two to five years for the hospital to be where they want it to be and it will be unacceptable to them if it is not in the upper two percent of the hospitals in the country.

6. CALENDAR:

The Clerk reviewed the calendar of upcoming meetings and events.

Chairman Dixon asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being none, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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


CLERK TO THE BOARD


CHAIRMAN