

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 2, 2013**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, December 2, 2013 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, Interim County Manager
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Karen Jennings, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Clerk to the Board Karen Jennings. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Commissioner Joe Winslow led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

The Clerk to the Board explained that state law requires the organization of each Board of Commissioners during the first meeting in December through the selection of a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. She opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Board.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin nominated Commissioner Jeff Dixon to serve as Chairman for the next year and the nomination was seconded by Commissioner Joe Winslow.

There being no further names submitted, the nominations for Chairman were closed. Upon a vote of the Board, Commissioner Dixon was unanimously elected as Chairman.

The meeting was turned over to Chairman Dixon who called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin nominated Commissioner Joe Winslow to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Board and the nomination was seconded by Commissioner Gary White.

There being no further names submitted, the nominations for Vice-Chairman were closed. Upon a vote of the Board, Commissioner Winslow was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

Chairman Dixon thanked the Board for electing him as Chairman for another year. He stated that the Board has a lot of its plate with regard to the Hospital, the 4-2-1 restructuring plan, revaluation, and the appointment of a County Manager. He added that there are other issues, but he feels these are the four biggest items that will confront the Board this year moving forward.

2. COMMENTS FROM JAMES MORRIS:

Chairman Dixon recognized Mr. James Morris of 959 Halls Creek Road to address the Board regarding leadership. Mr. Morris said he brought a letter tonight to read to the Board, but has decided he will be wasting his time to read it to the Board. He asked that it be recorded with the minutes of the meeting and that the members of the Board read it during their free time.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Dixon asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Vice-Chairman Joe Winslow requested that the agenda be amended to add the following item recommended by the Finance Committee at its meeting today to the consent agenda: 1) Approval of overtime pay for Social Services employees.

Motion was made by Joe Winslow, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to amend the agenda to add the item recommended above by the Finance Committee to the consent agent. The motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2013 Commissioner Meetings
- b. Approval of Tax Releases, Refunds, and Solid Waste Fee Releases

Releases:

		County	City
1.	Ryan Matthew Drygas	149.36	124.25
2.	Leah Beth Roberts	123.81	
3.	Mann Capital Properties Lmtd.	1,230.75	1,004.77
4.	Mann Capital Properties Lmtd.	977.68	836.76
5.	Brittany Hope Lampley	114.91	
6.	William John Morton	111.41	93.95
7.	William John Morton	188.91	155.83
8.	William John Morton	183.71	151.67
9.	Robert Evan Pritchford	145.39	121.08
10.	Robert Evan Pritchford	125.92	105.53
11.	Thomas James Huntley	155.37	124.05
12.	Marluis Evett Stokes	109.49	
13.	Natashia Eden Harmon	165.42	137.07
14.	Scott Alton White	135.77	
15.	Kellen Patrick Sheenan	168.34	
16.	Laura Anne Bruner	115.01	96.82
17.	William George Barton	128.65	
18.	Nick Eugene Cohran	137.27	
19.	Daniel Wayne Dennis	206.14	
20.	Daniel Dennis	112.01	
21.	Donald William Goldsworthy	116.49	96.53
22.	Abigail Elizabeth Janz	116.80	
23.	Ryan Thomas Lawrence	119.72	100.58
24.	Salvatore Leone IV	175.71	
25.	Georgettee Makisha Lopez	149.00	122.07
26.	Sean Dangelo Mosby	165.94	
27.	Gary J. Siatkowski	143.78	
28.	Brandon Abeel Smith	110.05	92.86
29.	Jason Michael Wilkins	152.64	
30.	Tiffany Michelle Williams	135.59	
31.	Steven J. Wynkoop	134.42	
32.	Nicole Blair Robertson	123.75	103.80

Refunds:

1.	Melinda Sue Hallyburton	152.40	
2.	Shannon Leigh Cascarano	137.03	
3.	Christopher Omar Sutherland	100.11	
4.	Claudia James Thompson	110.98	93.61

Solid Waste Fee Releases:

Owner's Name	Parcel ID Number	Reason for Release
Jo Ann Perry	P6-18	House vacant 20+ years
Marshall H. Stevenson, Jr.	P36-40	Vacant since 2010
James E. Pool Heirs	P64-60	Vacant since 1994
Wilford & Nellie Spellman Heirs	P94-26	Vacant since 2003

c. Approval of Overtime Pay for Social Services Employees

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve overtime pay for Social Services employees due to ongoing issues with NC Fast at the state level which has put stress on the Social Services Department. There is currently funding available in the DSS salaries budget line due to vacant positions and employee retirements.

Motion was made by Joe Winslow, seconded by Gary White 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.	Jack Lyndon Featherston	12.56	
2.	John Anthony Forbes	32.70	
3.	Benjamin Alexander Bruner	52.23	46.04
4.	Nick Eugene Cochran	24.92	
5.	Jason Liam Cochrane	98.34	
6.	Matthew Delvalle	49.72	
7.	Ronald Al Jah Everson	63.49	
8.	Ronald Al Jah Everson	9.30	
9.	Charles David Freeman	46.19	
10.	Charles David Freeman	23.31	
11.	Charles David Nathan Freeman	4.65	
12.	Sandra A. Garza	93.56	
13.	Donald William Goldsworthy	21.76	22.37
14.	Wesley Sean Goodman	91.85	
15.	Timothy Carl Janz	51.40	
16.	Sean Dangelo Mosby	58.28	
17.	Gary J. Siatkowski	73.04	
18.	Gary Joseph Siatkowski	30.74	
19.	Stephanie Lynne Vick	95.51	
20.	Adam Nicholas Williams	37.74	
21.	Lee E. Sawyer, Jr.	67.46	58.86
22.	Robert Earl Lee	21.86	17.45
23.	Joseph Ray Hyder, Jr.	16.37	
24.	Charles Andre Gasque	8.25	11.58
25.	Charles Andre Gasque	3.04	7.43
26.	Charles Andre Gasque	10.66	13.51
27.	Charles Andre Gasque	15.19	17.13
28.	Charles Andre Gasque	7.56	11.04
29.	Charles Andre Gasque	17.26	18.56
30.	Charles Andre Gasque	19.78	20.54
31.	Christopher Alexander Karpf	54.81	48.76
32.	Jason M. Meredith	5.89	
33.	Patricia Ann Morton	92.81	79.10
34.	Louis Brason Twiford, Jr.	30.13	
35.	Patricia Jean Miller	38.93	
36.	Sharon E. Dunn	53.77	
37.	Brian James Lightbourne	24.57	24.31
38.	Richard Paul Woodward II	22.94	
39.	Linda Mason Crouch		62.52
40.	Susan Lee Stanley	70.18	
41.	Maria Guadalupe Perez	9.30	7.43
42.	Monsees Masonry, Inc.	28.45	
43.	William A. Manning Electrical Cont. Inc.	5.58	4.38
44.	Chanda Shenate Holley	4.53	3.61
45.	Ronald Harrison Lowe	9.26	7.28
46.	JacLyn Amber Young	75.22	64.10
47.	Philip Clinton Midkiff	7.44	5.94
48.	Matthew Andrew Arsenaull	93.78	74.87
49.	Joshua Joseph Green	10.11	
50.	Matthew Eric Henderson	145.15	
51.	Matthew Eric Henderson	30.63	
52.	Carol Lynn Robichaud	9.51	
53.	Keshara Tiara Hicks	10.04	
54.	Frank Landis Hinson	53.88	
55.	Frank Landis Hinson	63.13	
56.	Joanna Stein Kuhn	12.60	9.90
57.	Jeffrey Lynn Goetz	24.37	

58.	Rose Wilkerson Whaley	3.15	2.48
59.	Steven Carl Raisor	17.20	
60.	Andrew Keith Condra	69.30	
61.	Jeffrey McKay Schwartz	9.45	7.43
62.	Louis Brason Twiford	58.28	
63.	Louis Brason Twiford	3.53	
64.	Jason Barry Hinton	10.08	7.92
65.	Joy Gayle Hamilton	3.21	2.52
66.	Gayle L. MacWhitrie	11.29	8.87
67.	Tyra Lee Newell III	23.88	
68.	Willie Jesse Dance	11.72	
69.	Benjamin Tyler Holt	69.63	
70.	Todd Lawrence Cook	86.99	
71.	James Elbert Wilson	10.39	8.17
72.	Robert E. III & Allison M. Willis	40.40	31.74
73.	Jerry D. & Catherine P. Heilig	45.11	
74.	Thomas Flis	9.21	
75.	Susan Dantere Mizelle	21.99	17.28

5. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION URGING CONGRESS TO AMEND THE BIGGERT-WATERS FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT:

Interim County Manager Rodney Bunch explained that he and the Chairman attended a meeting recently and this was brought up at the meeting. He said the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 will result in much higher flood insurance premiums for property owners, will negatively affect property values, and will make it more difficult to build. The proposed resolution would urge that Congress amend the Biggert-Waters Act to lessen the impact.

Motion was made by Joe Winslow, seconded by Frankie Meads to adopt the following resolution urging Congress to amend the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION
TO AMEND THE BIGGERT-WATERS
FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 2012**

WHEREAS, the home building and real estate industries are major economic drivers throughout the State as well as Northeastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 specifically to ensure flood insurance coverage was available on reasonable terms and conditions to citizens who have a need for such protections; and

WHEREAS, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) plays a critical role in the location, placement, and construction of homes and structures within a community, and provides for an estimated 5.68 million National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies nationwide; and

WHEREAS, under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), participating communities with structures located and built in the Special Flood Hazard Areas (Flood Zones A and V), that are backed by federal lender institutions, are required to purchase mandatory flood insurance policies; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2012, the President signed into law the Surface Transportation Bill (R.R. 4348), which included the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act (BW-12); and

WHEREAS, the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act re-authorizes the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through 2017, but also puts into place many significant reforms as a result of the high losses incurred by the program in 2005 from Hurricane Katrina and in 2012 from Super Storm Sandy to restore the program's financial solvency; and

WHEREAS, these reforms outlined below included dramatic and in many cases immediate changes for structures built Pre-Firm (Section 205 of the Act), and structures that were built Post-Firm (Section 207 of the Act), as well as, lowering the threshold for what is deemed to be a substantial improvement; and

WHEREAS, the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act will implement actuary insurance rates for homeowners, business owners, and prospective buyers upon the sale or purchase of real property or a lapse in insurance coverage after July 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Section 205 of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act removes historical subsidized insurance rates for all non-primary residences and business properties that were lawfully constructed prior to the first Flood Insurance Rate Maps (Pre-Firm) and are now subject to receive “Full Risk Rates” at a rate increase of twenty-five percent (25%) per year until the Full Risk Rate” is achieved; and

WHEREAS, Section 207 of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act removes historical subsidies for any structure (formerly grandfathered of non-subsidized) that is affected by a FIRM designation to a Special Flood Hazard Area and will be subject to receive “Full Risk Rates” at a rate increase of twenty percent (20%) per year until the “Full Risk Rate” is achieved; and

WHEREAS, the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act redefines the term “substantial improvement”, thereby discouraging the remodeling and renovation of existing structures by lowering the threshold for “substantial improvement” from fifty percent (50%) of the value of the structure to thirty percent (30%); and

WHEREAS, nationwide the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) data shows that fifty-two percent (52%) of the United States population lives in a coastal watershed county, and more than fifty percent (50%) of the United States population lives near a river, creek, bay, sound, lake, stream, or ocean; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County is extremely concerned that the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act will financially impact home and business owners, negatively affect property values, discourage construction activities, hinder real estate transactions, and may result in foreclosures to owners who have lawfully constructed their homes and businesses in accordance with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements and the North Carolina State Building Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners urges Congress to amend the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act to:

- Provide a slower rate of increase to flood insurance rates for policy holders required to meet “Full Risk Rates.”
- Extend the grandfathering provisions for all existing policy holders who lawfully constructed their homes per the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements and the North Carolina State Building Code (in effect at the time of construction).
- Reinstate the substantial improvement threshold at the historical limit of fifty percent (50%) of the value of the structure.
- Address the cost savings that could be incurred through the rate-making processes by participating National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) communities that engage in Federal Storm Damage Reduction projects, or have specific State building codes, or utilize enhanced construction standards that would further limit flood loss and decrease the likelihood of widespread damage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners urges Congress to direct an independent examination to:

- Review the National Flood Insurance Program’s (NFIP) proposed actuarial rates, issues and alternative solutions regarding the National Flood Insurance Program’s (NFIP) solvency, and assess the burden that the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 will impose on insurance policy holders.

Adopted this the 2nd day of December, 2013.

6. CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATIONS FOR COASTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Chairman Dixon stated that at the last meeting the Board requested that nominations for the Coastal Resources Advisory Council be submitted at tonight’s meeting. It was recommended that Commissioner Lloyd Griffin be nominated.

Motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Joe Winslow to nominate Commissioner Lloyd Griffin for appointment to the Coastal Resources Advisory Council. The motion carried unanimously.

7. ADOPTION OF COMMISSIONER MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2014:

The Board considered a proposed schedule of regular Commissioner meetings for 2014. The Clerk explained that this would make it easier to schedule agenda items and public hearings. The Board could still make changes to the schedule during the year if necessary.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Joe Winslow to adopt the following 2014 calendar of regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners. The motion carried unanimously.

**Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners
2014 Meeting Schedule**

Month	1st Regular Meeting	2nd Regular Meeting
January	Monday, January 13	None
February	Monday, February 3	Monday, February 17
March	Monday, March 3	Monday, March 17
April	Monday, April 7	Monday, April 21
May	Monday, May 5	Monday, May 19
June	Monday, June 2	Monday, June 16
July	Monday, July 14	None
August	Monday, August 4	Monday, August 18
September	Tuesday, September 2	Monday, September 15
October	Monday, October 6	Monday, October 20
November	Monday, November 3	Monday, November 17
December	Monday, December 1	Monday, December 15

8. COUNTY MANAGER REPORTS:

Interim County Manager Rodney Bunch reported that a pre-construction meeting for the Elizabeth City Middle School renovation project will be held on December 16.

Commissioner Frankie Meads noted that in the Manager's Report in the packet Mr. Bunch states that RFP's for mowing were sent to 19 people who have expressed an interest in the mowing contract. He asked if this RFP is for any mowing besides the Commerce Park because he thought the county was going to use the farmers that farm the land to do the mowing to reduce costs. Mr. Bunch stated the mowing RFP is only for the Commerce Park. He stated that it was not agreed for the farmers to do the mowing. He added that the revenue from the farm rent will more than pay the cost of the mowing.

9. CALENDAR:

The Clerk reviewed the calendar of upcoming meetings and events.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner William Sterritt reported that Representative Steinburg and Senator Cook have agreed to meet with the Board in a work session at 2:00 PM on December 16 to discuss the 4-2-1 plan. He stated that Commissioner Perry is working to ensure that Representative Mobley is present at the meeting as well. He added that this meeting is being organized at the Board's request. Commissioner Sterritt reported that he and the County Attorney met with Representative Steinburg a few days ago to discuss the proposed plan.

Commissioner Sterritt advised that the Recreation Advisory Committee will not meet in December.

Commissioner Gary White reported that the December meeting of the Water Committee has been cancelled.

Commissioner Cecil Perry reported that Commissioner Meads is going to assist with trying to find a member to serve on one of the committees that has had a vacancy for some time. A representative from the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction is required on this particular committee.

Commissioner Perry stated that he hopes when the public appears before the Board they will present accurate information. He said last month a person came in and stated that black people don't run for office. He stated that this information is very inaccurate because black people and white people in this community run in districts and in his district there are approximately 10,000 people and 3,000 of them are white, and the opposite is true in the other districts. He said there has never been a white person that ran in his district. He said it bothers him that someone came before the Board at the last meeting and said the reason blacks are not on the Board is because they don't run. He stated that blacks are not going to run in districts with low minority populations where they are not guaranteed to win. He explained all of the white females who have run in the six districts have won 100% of the time, but this is not the case with blacks. He stated that the public could help a great deal if they would stop trying to create problems by

presenting inaccurate information. He said he is the one who asked the Board of Commissioners to look at restructuring the Board so that more minorities can participate. He said it is all about involving people to make a better community.

Commissioner Frankie Meads stated that he would like to recommend to staff that they withhold the County Commissioners' pay until a program has been implemented to lower the county's debt. He said he would like to see some progress made in paying off the debt instead of paying \$665,000 in interest each year. He made a motion to that effect, however the motion died due to the lack of a second.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin updated the Board on the Regional Planning Organization activities. He said Angela Welsh has been hired as the RPO Director to replace Steven Lambert who resigned. He stated that the fourteen counties in Division One will be competing against the rest of the state with regard to highways, roads, bridges, and pedestrian paths. Each RPO will be identifying their priority projects. He added that the collective group has to act as a region and must emphasize that they are working together. He noted that there are 2,800 miles of secondary and primary roads in the region which is larger than the metropolitan area of Mecklenburg County.

Vice-Chairman Joe Winslow stated that he was born and raised in Elizabeth City and has lived the majority of his life in Elizabeth City, which is part of Pasquotank County. He said he is concerned that the county was previously classified as a Tier 2 county and has now gone to a Tier 1 county. He stated that to him this is a big step, but is also a big opportunity. He said if the city and county could work together, there are grant opportunities available. He suggested that the County Manager and the City Manager get together and look for grant opportunities that are opened up for local employers with the Tier 1 designation. He said if there is ever any opportunity for that to occur now would be a good time.

Chairman Dixon stated that he and the Board were blindsided by this information as he had a reporter call him for a comment before he knew anything about this change. He said the letter from the Department of Commerce advising of this change in classification actually came over the holiday weekend. He noted that the sad thing is that 19.9% of Pasquotank County's population lives below the poverty level. He said this is the result of a lot of minimum wage jobs. He pointed out that a recent article in the newspaper stated that the average annual salary for an employee at Nucor in Hertford County is \$84,400. He added that Pasquotank County had the opportunity to get Nucor years ago, but was afraid of smokestacks among other things.

Commissioner Cecil Perry asked whether Pasquotank County could encourage businesses that plan to locate in the county to pay a higher wage like Washington, DC does. The County Attorney said if the county were entering into economic development agreements, it could require the companies to state what their average salary would be. The agreement could have a clawback whereby the county could withdraw some of the incentives if the company did not comply with the salary provision.

Chairman Dixon reported that a rough draft of the personnel handbook has been completed and will be sent to Attorney John Leidy, who specializes in personnel matters, to review and make comments. It will then come back to the Board for final approval.

Chairman Dixon stated that he has received a couple of calls from individuals suggesting that the Board be brought into the 21st century with some sort of live-streaming or video recording of its meetings that the public can view at their pleasure. He suggested that staff obtain some cost information.

Chairman Dixon noted that the Board had approved the \$150,000 in additional funding for the old Elizabeth City Middle School renovation project. He said he talked to the City Manager about where they were going to get their \$150,000 and was told it would be coming from grants. He stated that the county cannot afford a full-time grant writer, but maybe could contract with someone to help the county find grants, or might possibly be able to use the city's grant writer. He said the county needs to take advantage of the grants that are available. Mr. Bunch advised that there are agencies and individuals who write grants for a business. If they obtain a grant, they get paid, and if they don't obtain a grant they do not get paid. Commissioner Perry noted that locally Dr. Shirley Turnage has written a lot of grants for Elizabeth City State University and it might be beneficial to talk to her. Chairman Dixon said there are a lot of grants available

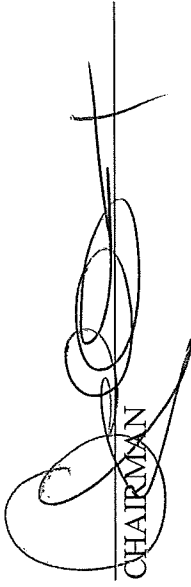
for the renovation of an old school for use by the youth of the community. He stated that a plan of action is needed.

Chairman Dixon stated that he does not plan to make any changes in the internal committees for this year.

Chairman Dixon asked if there was any further business 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 7:45 PM.


CLERK TO THE BOARD


CHAIRMAN