

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
JULY 21, 2008**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, July 21, 2008 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cecil Perry, Chairman
Marshall Stevenson, Vice-Chairman
Matt Wood
Bill Trueblood
Jeff Dixon
Jimmie Harris

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lloyd E. Griffin, III (*out of town*)

OTHERS PRESENT: Randy Keaton, County Manager
Rodney Bunch, Asst. County Mgr for Planning & Econ. Dev.
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Lynn Scott, Asst. Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Cecil Perry. Mr. Lee Owney of Towne South Church of Christ gave the invocation and Vice Chairman Marshall Stevenson led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Perry welcomed everyone present.

1. COMMENTS FROM JAMES MORRIS:

Chairman Perry recognized Mr. James Morris of 959 Hall's Creek Road. Mr. Morris stated that he is concerned about salt water being discharged into Hall's Creek from the test wells for the new Reverse Osmosis Plant. He said it is his understanding that approximately 1.5 million gallons of salt water will be discharged in a 24 hour period. He stated that he is not sure what type of impact this will have on our natural resources, but he does not feel that it is a good idea. He said he was informed by a gentleman that has been fishing in that area all of his life that this past weekend he caught his first croaker at the mouth of the creek. He stated that he disagrees with discharging salt water in our fresh water and asked that we reconsider and come up with another solution. Chairman Perry reassured Mr. Morris that everything possible has been done to make the project as safe as possible. Mr. Morris said we should not force development in our county due to drainage. Commissioner Dixon invited Mr. Morris to attend our Water Committee meetings to get a better understanding of what is involved and to better answer his questions.

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

Chairman Perry called on the following county employees to receive pins to recognize their years of service with Pasquotank County:

Employee	Department	Years of Service
Beverly Mercer	Department of Social Services	25
Cedric Dunstan	EMS Department	20

The Board congratulated and thanked the employees for their service.

3. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL HOSPITALITY HOUSE WEEK:

Chairman Perry recognized Ms. Cole of Wesley Hospitality House to accept a proclamation declaring July 20-26, 2008 as National Hospitality Week. Chairman Perry read and then presented to Ms. Cole the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, hundreds of families travel into our community each year seeking specialized medical care for a loved one's serious illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, these families need the comfort and support of others who understand the stress and hardships of coping with the treatment of a seriously ill family member; and

WHEREAS, the Wesley Hospitality House provides a warm, caring family-centered environment for both patients and their families to stay at a nominal cost; and

WHEREAS, the Wesley Hospitality House is also one of more than 150 sister houses, all members of the National Association of Hospital Hospitality Houses, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the nation is observing the week July 20 through July 26, 2008 as:

NATIONAL HOSPITALITY HOUSE WEEK

And that the County of Pasquotank, North Carolina takes great pleasure in expressing sincere gratitude and appreciation for the dedication and selfless and compassionate support provided by the Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers of Wesley Hospitality House.

Signed and sealed this 21st day of July, 2008.

Ms. Cole thanked the Board for proclaiming National Hospitality House week.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ROAP) APPLICATION:

Chairman Perry declared the meeting to be a public hearing on a proposed Rural Operating Assistance Program application. He recognized Mr. Herb Mullen, representing Inter-County Public Transportation Authority. Mr. Mullen explained that there are 3-tiers of funding which come down through NCDOT to provide transportation to the citizens of Pasquotank County. The first tier of funds is called Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Funds. He said these funds are used for citizens that are sixty or older or have a disability that can be documented. He stated that typically they can ride for free to and from doctor's appointments and to any destination that would provide them a better quality of life. The second tier of funds is called the Employment Transportation Assistance Program. He said the purpose of these transportation funds is to assist transitional Work First participants after eligibility of cash assistance has concluded. The third tier is the Rural General Public Program. Anyone can use these services, as long as they call to schedule in advance. He stated that Pasquotank County is looking to obtain \$165,389 of these funds.

Chairman Perry asked if anyone else would like to address the Board regarding the proposed Rural Operating Assistance Program application. At the absence of further comments, the public hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Matt Wood, seconded by Bill Trueblood to approve submission of a Rural Operating Assistance Program application. The motion carried.

5. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Perry asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. It was requested that the following items recommended by the Finance Committee be added to the agenda: 1) Approval of change order request for the old library project; 2) Approval of higher starting salary for an EMT I recruit; and 3) Approval of tipping fee adjustment for LCID & C&D. It was also requested that a closed session be entered into at the end of the agenda to discuss relocation of a business or industry and acquisition of real estate.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trueblood and seconded by Commissioner Stevenson to amend the agenda to add the three additional items recommended by the Finance Committee to the consent agenda and to add a closed session to the end of the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of June 19 & June 23, 2008 Commissioner Meetings

b. Designation of Voting Delegate for NCACC Annual Conference

The Board was asked to designate Chairman Perry as the voting delegate for the NCACC Annual Conference.

c. Appointments to Board and Committees

The Board Appointments Committee has recommended the appointments of Eudora Harvey and Nelia Fernandez to the Pasquotank-Camden Library Board.

d. Approval of Amended Subdivision Plat for Small's Acres

Staff has recommended approval of the amended plat for Small's Acres, Section A submitted by Nicky Overman. Mr. Overman's property was originally platted as three lots and later re-combined by a previous owner to make one lot. The amended plat divides the parcel into two lots. The amended plat meets all the requirements of the county subdivision ordinance.

e. Designation of Standard Status for the Work First Program

The Department of Social Services has requested that the Board approve standard status for the Work First Program. Pasquotank County has operated as a standard program from the very beginning of the Work First Program and the Department of Social Services would like to continue as a standard program.

f. Approval of Change Order Request for the Old Library Project

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a change order request for the old library project to reroute the roof drain in the vault area to avoid conflict with the structural steel. The total amount of the change order is \$1,575.23. The architect has reviewed the change order request and recommended approval. The existing roof drain is in the way of the new structural steel, which requires re-piping of the roof drain.

g. Approval of Higher Starting Salary for EMT-I

The Finance Committee has recommended that the EMT-I applicant be hired at step 3 on the salary schedule due to her past experience. She has been employed with the county on a part-time status since August 2006 and she currently works full-time for a neighboring EMS agency.

h. Approval of Tipping Fee Adjustment for LCID & C&D

The Finance Committee has recommended increasing the LCID & C&D tipping fees from \$48 per ton to \$50 per ton to cover the \$2 per ton tax that has been imposed by the State of North Carolina, which will be retroactive to July 1, 2008.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trueblood, seconded by Commissioner Stevenson to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried.

The following requests for release or refund of the solid waste availability fee have been approved by the Tax Administrator:

OWNER'S NAME	PARCEL ID NUMBER	REASON FOR RELEASE
C. Fletcher Bailey	P90-33	Vacant
Steven D. Murray	P64-13A	House is uninhabitable
Francis Loretta Perry	P122-29	Unoccupied for two years
Margaret S. Teat	P112-31	Not livable
Charles Everett, Jr. & Carolyn	21-F-10-11A	No longer residing at location
Wayne O. White c/o Hazel White/deceased	P142-12	Vacant
Carlton L. Wood	P5-13	Unoccupied since 2003
Johnnie W. Muse	P70-11	Vacant for at least 11 years
Louis Banks, Jr. Heirs	P98-31	Vacant – not livable

7. REPORT FROM COUNTY MANAGER:

County Manager Randy Keaton reported that the College of the Albemarle is currently doing their capital planning and Lynne Bunch, President of COA, has sent him information regarding a bond referendum that if passed by a legislator will provide funds for expansion projects for universities and community colleges. COA has been asked what their next capital project would be and they are requesting the addition of a continuing education center, which would be approximately 40,000 square feet on the Elizabeth City campus. He explained that the reason it is coming before the county is because in order for COA to even start this project and to receive planning money they have to get a commitment from the county that we will pay for maintaining the continuing education center once it is built. He said even if the bond referendum were currently on the ballot it will be 6-7 years in the future before the project will begin.

Commissioner Wood explained that this anticipates first of all the legislators passing a bond referendum for universities and community colleges. Then, it anticipates the public voting in favor of such bond. He said the planning process requires that the college acquire this commitment from the county so that should this be passed they will have what is required of them in order to receive funds.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Harris to support College of the Albemarle's expansion needs by making a commitment to provide funds to operate and maintain the proposed continuing education center if approved. The motion carried.

County Manager Randy Keaton thanked Lynn Scott and Mike Etheridge for the hard work they have put into selling surplus on Govdeals.com. He reported that the Polaris Ranger recently listed sold for \$1,950 to a gentleman from Arkansas; the riding mower from the Water Department sold for \$1,231; and the 1974 mobile command center sold for \$775. He said this has been an extremely efficient program and has worked out very well for us.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Stevenson stated that the Appointments Committee has recommended the following appointments:

Tourism Development Authority – The Nominating Committee met today and voted to approve the City's recommendation for Gwendolyn Sanders to be appointed to the Tourism Development Authority.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Stevenson thanked the other commissioners that participated in the 1st Annual Bocce Ball Bash over the weekend. He said he feels they performed very well. He stated that they were defeated in the fourth round by the team that won the tournament. He said he would like to take this opportunity to apologize to his fellow commissioners and staff regarding his public comments at the last meeting regarding the budget and in the future he will not offend anyone.

Commissioner Dixon reported that the program at the bocce ball tournament listed Pasquotank County as a sponsor and he thinks people need to know that Commissioner Stevenson paid the money out of his pocket and that it was not tax payers' money. He said he recently read an article in the paper regarding the grant for the proposed outdoor classroom at River Road Middle School. He asked the County Manager why this was the first time he had heard about it. County Manager Randy Keaton said the school system worked with Albemarle RC&D and applied for the grant, not the county. He explained that it will be on the school side of the property. The large ditches will be piped and a wetland will be created on the back side of the property. Commissioner Dixon stated that he was told it was the woods on the back corner, next to the subdivision that was going to be utilized. County Manager Randy Keaton said it is his understanding that the main purpose is to try to fill the large ditches in and then channel water back in the back corner and try to create a wetland so that it would help clean the water up before it exits. Commissioner Dixon said his concern is once this area is turned into a wetland it will have to stay a wetland and if any additional parking, etc. is needed for the complex we will not be able to convert it back. County Manager Randy Keaton explained that it is only a narrow strip of woods between the back of the baseball field and the well sites. He told Commissioner Dixon that he would verify the information and get back to him.

Commissioner Trueblood stated that he had an enjoyable time at the bocce ball bash this past weekend.

Chairman Perry thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity to attend the NACO Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. He said based on what he gathered from other commissioners throughout the country we are doing very well. He stated that electronic signatures were discussed and how documents could be signed from your home computer, which could save a lot of money on gas. He said they also discussed four-day work weeks in order to conserve gas. He commended Commissioner Stevenson for his earlier comments.

10. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY:

County Attorney Mike Cox reported that approximately a week and a half ago he spoke at an elections seminar for election board members and directors across the state in New Bern. He said he has been asked by Jim Blackburn to discuss the Tonter case at the county attorney conference this Friday and Saturday.

11. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY AND EXPANSION OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY:

Chairman Perry asked if there was any further business to come before the Board in Regular Session. At the absence of further business, he asked for a motion that the Board enter Closed Session to discuss acquisition of real property and to discuss the expansion of business and industry.

Motion was made Commissioner Trueblood, seconded by Matt Wood that the Board enter Closed Session to discuss acquisition of real property and the expansion of business and industry. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon the end of Closed Session;

Motion was made by Matt Wood, seconded by Marshall Stevenson that the Board return to Regular Session. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Perry asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by Matt Wood, seconded by Jimmie Harris to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.

CHAIRMAN

ASSISTANT CLERK