

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
NOVEMBER 3, 2008**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, November 3, 2008 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cecil Perry, Chairman  
Marshall Stevenson, Vice-Chairman  
Matt Wood  
Bill Trueblood  
Lloyd E. Griffin III  
Jeff Dixon  
Jimmie Harris

**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 Cecil Perry. Commissioner Matt Wood gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Marshall Stevenson led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Perry welcomed everyone present.

**1. PRESENTATION ON AVIATION SCIENCE PROGRAM AT ECSU:**

Chairman Perry recognized Dr. Anthony Sharp to make a presentation on the Aviation Science Program at Elizabeth City State University. Dr. Sharp outlined the seven programs currently offered at ECSU in Aviation Science. These programs include Aviation Management, Computer Science, Electronics, Public Administration, Flight Education, Avionics, and Space Science. Dr. Sharp said they are working on developing an Air Traffic Control Program and hope to have it in place by next fall. He explained that it is estimated over the next 10 years the FAA will be hiring approximately 17,000 air traffic controllers and ECSU plans to do its part. He said ECSU is making application with the FAA to be a recognized air traffic control institution.

Dr. Sharp said ECSU offers the only four-year aviation education program in the entire state and he anticipates that a lot of students from other areas of the state will be coming to Northeastern North Carolina for their education in aviation. He said coupled with the College of The Albemarle's work in aircraft maintenance, this area will have the whole package and students can get all the necessary training they need here in Elizabeth City with respect to aviation.

Chairman Perry asked Dr. Sharp how they are working with College of The Albemarle, and he said they are working quite well together. Dr. Sharp stated that they are working hand-in-hand with COA, and COA has a representative on the aviation building committee who attends all of the meetings and provides input. He stated that he believes the new building in the Aviation Park will be a great building that will be shared with COA and will provide training programs that will serve the needs of students from COA and ECSU. He said the partnership between the university and a community college is unique and he believes it is good for both institutions and the students they serve.

Chairman Perry asked Dr. Sharp if ECSU is working with the Coast Guard. Dr. Sharp stated that meetings have been held with Coast Guard representatives and they discussed opportunities that could be made available at the Coast Guard Base. He said this summer three students from ECSU participated in a summer internship program at the Coast Guard Base, and next week a meeting will be held to begin preparations for next summer's internship program at the Coast Guard Base.

When asked if ECSU is working with Blackwater, Dr. Sharp said they have not had recent contact with Blackwater, however this is one of the agencies in the northeast region they intend to work with.

Commissioner Trueblood asked Mr. Sharp if a timeline has been established for construction and occupancy of the building. Mr. Sharp said they are looking for groundbreaking to occur in the Fall of 2009, and as long as the project stays on track occupancy should occur in the Fall of 2010. He noted however that state budget constraints may have an impact on that timeline.

**2. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR TABERNACLE OF FAITH OUTREACH CENTER:**

Chairman Perry recognized Mr. John Bonk. Mr. Bonk stated that he is here tonight representing the Tabernacle of Faith Homeless Shelter and is making a solicitation for funding from the county. He explained that the shelter has been operating in Elizabeth City for ten years now and is the only homeless shelter for women and children in this area. He said they are operating two structures in Elizabeth City, one on Road Street, and one on Herrington Road, and can accommodate up to 18 to 20 women and children in those two homes. He stated that they accept walk-ins as well as referrals from several agencies, and can take women and children in for one night or for several months. He said their primary concern is to provide a roof over their heads, a bed to sleep in, and a clean secure drug-free place to stay. He said they do not provide any luxuries such as television. They also encourage the people who stay in their shelters to go to church or seek some kind of counseling. Mr. Bonk added that all of the staff are volunteers and receive no salaries. He said Pastor Robinson, who is the founder of the shelter and the director of the board, has never received any pay in the ten years of operation. He said they in fact pour some of their own funds into the shelter to keep it running. He added that they have a registered nurse and a social worker on staff who also volunteer their time. Mr. Bonk stated that they need financial support and since they are providing a service in the community, they hope the local governments in the community will provide some financial support. He explained that it costs about \$27,000 each year to operate these two shelters, a good portion of which goes to pay the heating and utility bills. Mr. Bonk advised that they have another shelter on Bell Street they are trying to get up and running for men. Due to repairs they are making, they do not know when it will be ready to open. He said various volunteer organizations and individuals are donating materials and time in order get this house ready possibly by Christmas.

Mr. Bonk said he would appreciate the Board's support in providing funds to help them make it through the winter, or even making a capital expenditure for repairs, playground equipment, or fences. Members of the Board commended Mr. Bonk and Pastor Robinson for their work. County Manager Randy Keaton noted that the Board had heard a request for funds today at the Finance Committee meeting from the Red Cross. He said both of these organizations are in similar situations. It was suggested that the County Manager come up with some options to address both of these requests and present them to the Board at the next meeting. Chairman Perry suggested that members of the Board also consider making private donations.

**3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

Chairman Perry asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. It was requested that the agenda be amended to add to New Business a recommendation from the Finance Committee to grant a one-year waiver from the Commerce Park Restrictive Covenants for lot owners to submit plans and specifications for developing lots in the Commerce Park.

Motion was made by Matt Wood, seconded by Marshall Stevenson to amend the agenda to add consideration of a waiver from the Commerce Park Restrictive Covenants to New Business. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of October 20 and October 29, 2008 Commissioner Meetings

b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax releases and refunds:

Releases:

		County	City
1.	Lottie Frances Layden	122.00	
2.	Joel Robert Allan	169.80	
3.	Albemarle Medical Ctr Partnership	201.59	164.93
4.	Rickey R. & Phyllis Brooks	107.00	
5.	Stephen Michael Oleksiak	101.95	

6.	Joshua Alan Faulkingham	101.10	92.91
7.	James Travis Nelson	101.45	
8.	Jason Len Miller	186.98	154.14
9.	Brandon Marcel Simpson	168.73	138.36

Refunds:

1.	James Garland King, II	119.85	108.28
2.	Shawn C. & Lisa R. Brock	203.27	
3.	Shawn C. & Lisa R. Brock	186.42	
4.	Shawn C. & Lisa R. Brock	180.34	

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Bill Trueblood to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried.

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

Releases:

		County	City
1.	Jean Matthews Brothers	8.45	
2.	Marie Owney Brickhouse	65.65	
3.	Erik Matthew Rinkel	4.66	3.88
4.	Raymond Ramierez, Jr.	80.70	
5.	Anne Lahmerr Weil	17.66	
6.	Alan Eugene Stewart, Sr.	83.25	
7.	Harold Lloyd Pritchard	2.75	
8.	Wilbert Davis Pickett	4.30	3.53
9.	Wilbert Davis Pickett	9.05	7.43
10.	Quality Foods From Sea, Inc.	7.80	6.40
11.	Imhotep Kevin Anthony Carter	9.23	
12.	John Stuart Harris	6.51	5.32
13.	Charles Robert Evans, Jr.	18.70	
14.	Joni Johnson Miller	8.95	7.34
15.	William Leslie Jackson, Sr.	33.61	
16.	Steven Mitchell Talick	54.15	
17.	Christopher George Wood	76.89	
18.	Christopher George Wood	12.50	
19.	Kevin Schneider	63.50	57.07
20.	Brenda Sue Norris	8.53	6.99
21.	Adam Nicholas Williams	70.40	
22.	Michael George Dorko	2.88	2.36
23.	Colter Paul Blackford	23.15	
24.	Meik Fleischer	9.63	7.88
25.	Daniel Stuart Smith	82.00	72.24
26.	Danny Russell Sawyer	26.54	21.72
27.	Elbert Lee Cooper, Jr.	5.65	4.64
28.	Janna Randal Overton	39.38	37.22
29.	Claudette Hinton Gillard	90.40	
30.	Robert Ann Hunt	7.60	6.24
31.	Teresa Perry Hollowell	14.55	
32.	Felecia Allen Williams	57.00	
33.	Sharon Michelle Rountree	51.85	47.52
34.	Vic Tiburcio Galvez Castillo	91.80	
35.	Makisha Breshell Stone	3.75	3.08
36.	James Alfred Wise IV	7.35	
37.	Terence Lee Blucker	8.80	7.20
38.	Ryan Thomas Bradley	7.54	6.17
39.	Beatrice Lister Tyler	37.35	30.63
40.	Jeremiah Eugene Shue	22.30	23.29
41.	Jeremiah Eugene Shue	18.35	20.05
42.	Jeremiah Eugene Shue	86.30	
43.	Jeremiah Eugene Shue	10.40	8.53
44.	Schaun Thomas Wrigley	65.20	
45.	Alverta Armstrong Williams	29.75	
46.	Michael Edward Mairo	28.85	
47.	Crystal Lavette Farmer	27.20	
48.	Jesse S. & Lisa E. Danneker	43.99	36.00

49.	Blanche Martin Brown	12.05	9.89
50.	Donald Roy Ekstrom	3.08	
51.	Scott Lee Depew	69.70	62.15
52.	Cody Jacob Hudock	53.19	
53.	Timothy J. Gilbride	4.70	3.85
54.	Timothy James Gilbride	47.50	38.95
55.	Ordelia Bogues	76.00	
56.	Ordelia Bogues	83.60	
57.	Josh George Reagan	54.65	49.81
58.	Josh G. Reagan	14.50	
59.	David Ross Disbennett	14.35	11.76
60.	Sandra Lacy Chory	34.10	
61.	Jeffrey Lynn Shunk	14.19	
62.	Aaron Gene Nelson	76.89	
63.	Joseph Andre Hixson	44.45	36.45
64.	Pamela Marie Moore	25.65	21.04
65.	Thomas Gary Knotts III	30.93	25.36
66.	Jay W. Callihan	70.85	
67.	Harold William Winkelman	10.80	8.86
68.	Michael Anthony Ryan, Jr.	12.85	10.51
69.	Jason Allen Mizelle	27.53	22.53
70.	Jovin Natalie Viruet	6.70	5.50
71.	Robert Smith Skinner	16.28	13.32
72.	Paul Kechere Nwamara	25.30	20.75
73.	Paul Kechere Nawmara	9.55	7.84
74.	Danny Ray Bowans	12.70	
75.	Robert Ray Conery	77.00	63.10
76.	Thomas Reed Anderson, Jr.	20.90	
77.	Michael Anthony Lees	22.66	18.54
78.	Suzanne Sara Gross	13.59	11.12
79.	Justin Adam Brown	46.26	
80.	Justin A. Brown	17.80	
81.	Edgardo Mateo	80.65	71.13
82.	Garland Godfrey	23.35	
83.	Tirzah Dawn Ungs	32.30	
84.	Vance Christian Searle		47.57
85.	James Kevin Massey	52.58	
86.	Merlin Wayne Kingston	86.95	
87.	Shanetia White	3.03	

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
Brickhouse Riddick	P11-35	Unoccupied since 1995
Timothy A. & Carla W. Dewald	P12A-31	Unoccupied since 2003

**5. APPROVAL OF WAIVER FROM COMMERCE PARK RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS:**

Commissioners Lloyd Griffin and Jeff Dixon requested that they be excused from discussing and voting on this issue due to a conflict of interest.

Motion was made by Matt Wood, seconded by Marshall Stevenson to excuse Commissioner Griffin and Commissioner Dixon from considering a waiver from the Commerce Park Restrictive Covenants due to a potential conflict of interest. The motion carried unanimously.

Assistant County Manager Rodney Bunch explained that the Commerce Park Ad Hoc Committee has proposed that the Board grant a 12-month amnesty for the seven clients who own properties in the Commerce Park that do not have structures on them. The amnesty would waive the payment of fees when a client is requesting an extension for an additional 12 months to submit plans and specifications. Mr. Bunch stated that the restrictive covenants currently require that someone who purchases land in the Commerce Park must build on that lot within five years. The proposal would extend that time to six years for these clients due to the current economic conditions.

Motion was made by Matt Wood, seconded by Bill Trueblood to approve the proposal to amend the Commerce Park Restrictive Covenants as presented to grant a 12-month amnesty to the seven clients who own properties in the Commerce Park that do not have structures on them; the property owners will be given a one year extension to submit plans and specifications for developing their lots and the payment of fees upon requesting an extension would be waived. The motion carried.

**6. UPDATE ON HOSPITAL AGREEMENT/AFFILIATION PROCESS WITH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEMS:**

Chairman Perry explained that he read in the newspaper that he did not give everyone an opportunity to be informed on this process. He stated that when this process first began, it was the opinion of the Hospital Board that they should ask each Commissioner to attend a meeting with the Hospital CEO in order to acquire a better overall understanding of the process. He said each Commissioner with the exception of Commissioner Griffin attended this meeting. He stated that at no time did the Hospital Board anticipate not having the Board get information about what was happening. Chairman Perry said when he brought information back to the Board he asked if he should request that Ms. Tanner attend a Board meeting, and was told it was not necessary at that time. Commissioner Griffin said at the time, there were two Board members who asked to have Ms. Tanner come to a Board meeting and give a presentation, and that is yet to happen. He stated that he still would like for Ms. Tanner to meet with the Board and make a presentation in a public venue because the public feels like they are being left out of this process. Chairman Perry said it was the Board's decision at that time to not have Ms. Tanner meet with the Board, not Commissioner Griffin's decision. Commissioner Wood suggested if Commissioner Griffin would like to invite Ms. Tanner to discuss the issue with the Board, he should make a motion to request her to meet with the Board and have the Board vote on the motion.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Jimmie Harris to ask the administration from Albemarle Hospital to come to the next meeting and make a presentation to the Board about the status of the agreement/affiliation process with University Health Systems.

Discussion followed and Commissioner Wood said that two County Commissioners are on the Hospital Board, and he would like to hear from them. He stated that his understanding was that no papers would be signed until the Board of Commissioners received a proposal. He said he also understood there is a negotiation process going on and it is difficult to give the details because there are not any final details at this point, only discussions. He noted that at some point there will be a document that will come back to the Board of Commissioners for consideration, and nothing will be done until that document is finalized by the Board. Chairman Perry stated that the document is currently being drawn up by the hospital's attorney and that document will be brought back to the Board for review and consideration.

Commissioner Jeff Dixon said he would like to echo that all that has been heard so far is that there is a plan. He stated that the Albemarle Hospital Board is in negotiations now and there are a lot of details that need to be worked out in which the Board of Commissioners probably does not need to be involved. He added that what the Board of Commissioners needs to be concerned with is the assets of Albemarle Hospital, and that the Hospital Board does not give away assets of Pasquotank County to University Health Systems.

Commissioner Matt Wood asked if a timeline is available for this process. Chairman Perry said he understands that the proposal should be available around the first of the year.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin stated that the Board is not on record anywhere saying that it is willing for the Hospital Authority to lease out the hospital, and all of this time is being spent to draft a proposal that the Board might not approve. He said if there is an issue with administration not being able to recruit doctors, then maybe that process should be changed.

Commissioner Wood noted that the Board of Commissioners has traditionally not intervened in the management of Albemarle Hospital. He said it has always been understood that the management remains in the hands of the Hospital Authority Board which has regional representation. He stated that the assets of the hospital belong to Pasquotank County and nothing could happen to those assets unless the Board of Commissioners approves it. He said he does

not see what is going on now to be out of character with the Hospital Authority. He urged the Board to allow the Hospital Authority to do its business rather than trying to intervene in the process. He said the Board can look at the final document once it has been prepared.

Commissioner Stevenson stated that he has tried to be open-minded about this and obviously the Board has not received any details on an agreement, and until details are received the Board cannot make an informed decision. He said he has struggled with trying to understand why this agreement is necessary and the best reason he has been given from the Hospital CEO is that it is for the betterment of the community. He stated that he would like to see some details as to why it is required. He said he has concerns about this and would like to know if the hospital should be sold, and if this is something that might happen as a result of an agreement. He also asked if an agreement is struck with University Health Systems what their goal would be in managing the hospital.

The motion to ask the administration from Albemarle Hospital to come to the next meeting and make a presentation to the Board about the status of the agreement/affiliation process with University Health Systems carried by a four to three margin with Commissioners Stevenson, Griffin, Dixon, and Harris voting in favor, and Commissioners Trueblood, Perry, and Wood voting against the motion.

Commissioner Dixon suggested that the Board begin thinking about its plan of action and if it wants to use the County Attorney or hire an outside attorney as legal counsel on this matter. Commissioner Wood asked the Board to consider hiring local counsel first. Chairman Perry stated that there will not be an agreement available for presentation at the next meeting.

Commissioner Dixon requested that the Board not look at the past or the present, but look at where the hospital should be in ten or twenty years. He said members of the Board owe it to their children and grandchildren to ensure the hospital is here to serve them in the future. He urged the Board to read and do research and look at the number of county-owned hospitals and community hospitals that are dying because they were by themselves. He added that Albemarle Hospital is sitting on an island between two large health networks, Sentara to the north, and University Health Systems to the south.

**7. REPORT FROM COUNTY MANAGER:**

County Manager Randy Keaton reported that the Haunted House was very successful this year. Once all of the final numbers are available, a report will be provided to the Board on the impact to the community. He said that about 3,500 people attended this year.

**8. REPORT FROM ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER:**

Assistant County Manager Rodney provided the Board with a copy of a letter that Fire Marshal Barry Overman sent to all of the residents of Pine Lakes and Planters Run as a result of a complaint at a recent meeting from a resident of Planters Run regarding open burning.

**9. RECOMMENDATION FROM APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE:**

Vice-Chairman Marshall Stevenson stated that the Appointments Committee met today and voted to appoint Nick Patel to replace James Stewart on the Tourism Development Authority. This appointment will be on the next agenda for final approval.

**10. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Jimmie Harris stated that he has been getting a lot of phone calls regarding the railroad crossing on Foreman-Bundy Road and how rough it is. He suggested that a letter be sent to the railroad company concerning the condition of this railroad crossing.

Motion was made by Jimmie Harris, seconded by Matt Wood to send a letter to the railroad company regarding the condition of the railroad tracks on Foreman-Bundy Road. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bill Trueblood stated that he concurs with Commissioner Harris regarding the railroad tracks as he has also received phone calls about them.

Commissioner Trueblood urged everyone to exercise their constitutional right and vote tomorrow, Election Day.

Commissioner Jeff Dixon stated that his company has been doing some research about trying to buy back the railroad spur that goes out to TCOM. He said lately they have been successful after many years of trying to acquire the portion adjacent to their business and have been given the go-ahead. He stated they have been given the number for the Chesapeake & Albemarle real estate company which plans to classify the track abandoned and sell it. He said if anyone is interested in purchasing a portion of the track, he can provide the contact information for the railroad company.

Commissioner Dixon stated that the Tourism Development Authority conducted interviews today for the two finalists for the Tourism Director position. He said a decision on a new director should be made in the next few days.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin stated that he rode past the Library Sunday evening and every light was on. He asked if some of the lights could be turned off when the Library is not open to save on the cost of electricity. County Manager Randy Keaton stated that the building is wired so that a certain number of security lights are on in the building and he discussed with the architect possibly turning off some of those lights.

Commissioner Dixon stated that it has been suggested that signage be placed on the Road Street side of the Library so that people from out of town will know what the building is. Mr. Keaton said some additional signs have been ordered to be placed on the outside of the building to indicate the building is the public library.

Vice-Chairman Stevenson asked the status of changing the traffic pattern in the parking lot for the Library and Public Safety Building. Mr. Keaton said the lines have almost faded away and he plans to have the arrows repainted reversing the direction of the traffic.

Commissioner Wood commented that he has been involved in politics most of his life and has never seen anything like what is going on in the country right now. He said a lot of good things are going on however there is also dissatisfaction. He stated that the Commissioners are considered to be leaders in the community, and when the election is over he hopes each Commissioner will show the community they can put it behind them and go to work in an orderly manner.

Chairman Perry said he hopes everyone will exercise their right to vote as was said earlier. He said regardless of who wins the election, our country will need a lot of help.

Chairman Perry asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being no further business;

Motion was made by Bill Trueblood, seconded by Jeff Dixon to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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CHAIRMAN

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CLERK