

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 21, 2009**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, December 21, 2009 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marshall H. Stevenson, Jr., Chairman
Lloyd E. Griffin, III, Vice-Chairman
Matt Wood
Bill Trueblood
Cecil Perry
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 Marshall Stevenson. Commissioner Matt Wood gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Lloyd Griffin led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

1. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO KAREN PRICE ON HER RETIREMENT:

Chairman Stevenson called on Karen Price, a Clerk in the Tax Department, and presented her with a plaque in recognition of her retirement. Mrs. Price will retire on December 31, 2009 after 33 years with the county. The Board thanked Mrs. Price for her service and congratulated her on her retirement.

2. PRESENTATION BY EAST CAROLINA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ON STATUS OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN PASQUOTANK COUNTY:

Chairman Stevenson recognized Mr. Roy Wilson, CEO of East Carolina Behavioral Health, to discuss the status of mental health services in Pasquotank County. Mr. Wilson introduced Cindy Ehlers, Assistant Area Director for Clinical Services; Joy Futrell, Chief Financial Officer; and Mike Kopecke, Assistant Area Director for External Services. Mr. Wilson explained that East Carolina Behavioral Health is a nine-county LME with offices in New Bern, Greenville and Ahoskie. He said they have been contracted by the state to manage Albemarle Area Mental Health for this fiscal year. He stated that they are a mission-driven organization and exist for the benefit of families and consumers of mental health, mental retardation, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services. He said they believe in high quality, cost-effective services and they hold their clients in high regard and work in partnership with them. He stated that they have been doing this job for about six months and he would like to provide the Board with an update. He said ECBH has employed 22 additional staff to work with the Albemarle counties. They have established services through contracts with qualified providers with whom they have previous relationships and who they know do quality work. Mr. Wilson advised that they are currently meeting with the Boards of Commissioners of the ten counties that make up Albemarle Mental Health to let the Commissioners know who they are and what they are about in order for the Board to make good decisions about the future. He stated that ECBH has implemented a number of initiatives in the Albemarle area over the past six months. He said ECBH has invested a great deal of time and energy into being consumer-friendly and looking at ways to help consumers and families help themselves.

Ms. Cindy Ehlers, Clinical Director, outlined the Second Mile Project which includes purchasing bed space from private psychiatric facilities in order to keep consumers closer to home and to decrease travel time for Sheriff's deputies to transport individuals who have been committed. The project also provides mobile crisis services in all of the counties in order to respond to crises in the community. A wide array of crisis services and support for mental health substance abuse and developmental disabilities is available through this project. Ms. Ehlers said the staff members from Albemarle Mental Health have been divested, many in jobs with private

providers. A benefit plan for consumers in this area has been established that is within the financial means available through state dollars. In addition to managing that budget, they have also had to deal with budget reductions from the state, while attempting to do no harm to consumers. Ms. Ehlers said they are providing 24/7 access to consumers through their toll-free number and in addition they have assured rapid access to substance abuse treatment. She explained that they have implemented a crisis intervention team in Pitt County where they work in partnership with the Pitt County Sheriff's Department to provide training to law enforcement in dealing with individuals with developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance abuse issues. She said this has been very successful in Pitt County for helping law enforcement and dispatchers understand how to deal with the population. She stated that this is something they are very interested in bringing to Pasquotank County and a class has been scheduled in March to provide crisis intervention training to law enforcement officers from this area. Ms. Ehlers said they also provide a mobile crisis team that can go anywhere individuals may find themselves in a crisis situation. She compared this to an ambulance service for people with mental illness, substance abuse and developmental disabilities. She said many times they can intervene prior to a petition for evaluation for commitment being filed and prevent a person from going to the hospital at all. She stated that this helps decrease the amount of time sheriff's deputies spend waiting in emergency rooms for a hospital bed to be found somewhere and then having to transport the individuals. Ms. Ehlers explained that the Community Partner Handbook outlines everything they do as it relates to any person in the community and how they can access services.

Commissioner Trueblood asked how many former employees of Albemarle Mental Health have been hired by East Carolina Behavioral Health. Ms. Joy Futrell stated that 22 people were hired altogether and she would guess that about half of them came from Albemarle Mental Health. Many others went to work for private providers. Ms. Futrell said that 140 interviews were conducted for the 22 positions that were filled.

Commissioner Perry asked if there are a sufficient number of private providers in the community because in the past it had been very difficult to find private providers. Ms. Ehlers responded that there are 114 private providers in the ten Albemarle counties. She said there are some gaps in specific services, such as day treatment for children and youth, and sex offender therapists. She stated that they are working to bring in quality providers to deliver those services. Commissioner Perry asked if funding continues to be a problem in providing services to the community. Ms. Ehlers said funding is not a problem, however they would never have enough funding to give everybody everything they think they need or want. She stated they would always advocate for more dollars for specific populations, but she thinks they do a good job of managing the dollars they do have for all ten counties. Commissioner Perry asked how people who have mental health problems know where to go to get services. Ms. Ehlers said they have printed materials that are provided to organizations such as DSS, the Health Department and other organizations with whom they interface. She stated that the phone numbers in the phone book for Albemarle Mental Health still work and are forwarded to ECBH.

Commissioner Wood asked how ECBH originated. Mr. Wilson stated that it was actually multiple LME's that merged to form a nine-county LME. With the addition of the ten Albemarle counties, ECBH is currently serving 19 counties. Commissioner Wood asked what role County Commissioners are expected to play in this model and what methods counties have to evaluate performance. Mr. Wilson responded that it is not the County Commissioners' main duty to do the evaluation because that is done by the Area Board through a number of activities. He said one means of measurement is the decrease in the number of admissions to Cherry Hospital by 60% over the last few years. This means 60% of those people who would have been going to Cherry Hospital are getting served in facilities closer to home. He said the fact that the state came to ECBH and asked them to take over Albemarle when it failed is another measure. He added that they are driven by their mission, not by dollars, and they do everything they can to make sure the citizens for whom they are responsible get timely quality services.

Vice-Chairman Griffin asked Mr. Wilson why ECBH does not have a physical footprint in Pasquotank County or why a member of the old Albemarle Mental Health Board is not sitting on the ECBH Board of Directors. Mr. Wilson stated that ECBH does not have offices in Pasquotank County because Pasquotank is not part of ECBH now and is being managed under a contract between the Division of Mental Health and ECBH. He said although ECBH does not have an office in Pasquotank County, they have a network of providers with offices in Pasquotank and they have contacts throughout the Albemarle Area. Ms. Futrell noted that although ECBH does not own an office in Pasquotank, they are working out of the Albemarle

Mental Health office on Main Street. He added that if Pasquotank County were to join ECBH, it would have a Commissioner on the ECBH Board of Directors.

Mr. Mike Kopecke said all LME's work under a performance agreement with the State of North Carolina and a community systems report is available as a benchmark for LME's. He stated that he would be glad to provide a copy of this report to the County Manager to share with the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Kopecke stated that they have recruited Port Human Services to operate in the Main Street offices and they have psychiatric services available five days a week. They also have a contract with Health Service Personnel for an additional one and one-half days of psychiatric services. Mr. Kopecke advised that ECBH is working in a partnership with the Albemarle Hospital Foundation and through a Kate B. Reynolds grant to recruit psychiatrists, and beginning January 1 they will begin providing psychiatric services two days a week out of the Community Care Clinic. Because of some of the difficulties in the emergency departments, they are involved with the Duke Foundation and in partnership with University Health Systems and the ECU School of Medicine to try to provide tele-psychiatry to eight University Health Systems hospitals through this grant. The grant application will be submitted in June and they hope to be operational by the end of 2010. In the space at Edgewood Center, Monarch is operating an Adult Day Vocational Program which serves about 30 individuals with developmental disabilities. The Arc of North Carolina, a statewide advocacy organization for persons with developmental disabilities, is also housed at Edgewood Center and provides support to hundreds of adults and children who live in Pasquotank County. These are services that were previously provided by Albemarle Mental Health employees.

Ms. Joy Futrell reviewed the fiscal monitoring report for the ten Albemarle counties for the quarter that ended September 30, 2009. She advised that some of the information in the report is pending completion of the 2008-09 audit which should be available at the end of January.

Commissioner Dixon asked what the county's options will be over time. He said he believes the county will have to make a decision to join East Carolina Behavioral Health or go another direction and he asked what that other direction would be. Mr. Wilson said the county would have to come up with a group of counties who meet the state's requirements for size to come together and start a new program. If this is done, the ten counties would have to first settle whatever debt exists for Albemarle Mental Health. Mr. Wilson said if the counties agree to come together with an existing LME, whether it is ECBH or another LME, the state might agree to find a way to forgive the debt. He added if the counties choose to go with ECBH, the County Commissioners who sit on the ECBH Board are going to have to agree to it. He said the current contract ends June 30th.

Commissioner Dixon thanked ECBH for bringing this report to the Board. He said this is information he has been waiting for.

Commissioner Wood stated that what happened with Albemarle Mental Health was a public embarrassment and he believes the state should take some of the responsibility. He said he is more concerned about where Mental Health will be two or three years from now. He asked what the processes and timelines would be for making a decision. County Manager Randy Keaton stated that the managers have met with Leza Wainwright from the state and asked that the state tell the counties what the options were in order to develop a process. He noted that all ten counties do not have to select the same option as each county can make its own decision.

Commissioner Perry asked if the Albemarle Area Mental Health Board should have input in this process. Mr. Wilson said as he understands it, this group no longer exists. Mr. Keaton said essentially this board has been disbanded and the entire functions of Albemarle are under contract by the state to ECBH.

Motion was made by Matt Wood, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to direct the County Manager to create a process for evaluating what the county's options are with regard to providing Mental Health services with a proposed timeline, and that he report to the Board by April 1. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wilson said the only thing he has not covered is how much ECBH expects the county to pay. He said that ECBH does not care. He stated that a lot of LME's do try to equalize contributions from the counties and ECBH understands that the law requires a contribution from the county.

He said their request is when the county appropriates the money that must by law go to the LME that the county tell them how it wants that money spent. He noted that they are not dependent on those dollars and in some of the other counties they have focused the money on recovery issues and kept it within the counties. He added that any money given will be spent the way the county wants it spent for consumers. Chairman Stevenson thanked Mr. Wilson and his staff for the information they provided.

3. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION TO LEON BRICKHOUSE:

Chairman Stevenson recognized Mr. Leon Brickhouse and asked him to come forward. He presented to Mr. Brickhouse the following proclamation honoring his accomplishments and congratulating him on being inducted into the N.C. State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame.

**PROCLAMATION HONORING
LEON BRICKHOUSE**

WHEREAS, Leon Brickhouse is a lifelong supporter of the livestock industry and youth livestock projects since 1950; and

WHEREAS, Leon Brickhouse has been the most outstanding leader of youth livestock projects in Pasquotank County and has touched the lives of hundreds of young people through his work with 4-H livestock projects; and

WHEREAS, each year Leon Brickhouse secures thousands of dollars in support for state fair exhibits, works to purchase feeder calves for spring shows, and provides a working show ring at his farm along with equipment and supplies for state fair youth projects; and

WHEREAS, over his years of dedication, Leon Brickhouse has raised over \$300,000 to support youth in livestock scholarships and has personally donated in excess of \$150,000 in sponsorships for youth beef projects; and

WHEREAS, he was on the original group of supporters to construct and purchase a new 4-H Livestock Arena for Pasquotank and surrounding counties in 1976; and

WHEREAS, he has gained the admiration and appreciation from many youth who have learned from his leadership to help others in the animal industry; and

WHEREAS, Leon Brickhouse was recognized for his efforts by having the Leon Brickhouse Endowment established at North Carolina State University in 2008 in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Leon Brickhouse was recently inducted into the N.C. State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners commends Leon Brickhouse for his outstanding accomplishments and congratulates him on being inducted into the N.C. State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame.

THIS the 21st day of December, 2009.

The Board thanked Mr. Brickhouse for his years of dedicated service and congratulated him on his accomplishments.

Cooperative Extension Director Travis Burke said he does not recall anyone from Northeastern North Carolina ever being inducted into the North Carolina Livestock Hall of Fame. He stated that Mr. Brickhouse deserves this honor because of his many accomplishments. He added that Mr. Brickhouse's entire family is involved as well. Mr. Burke said this is quite an honor and Mr. Brickhouse is to be congratulated.

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Stevenson asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Commissioner Wood requested that the agenda be amended to add to the consent agenda the following items recommended by the Finance Committee: 1) Approval of requests to fill vacant positions; 2) Approval of agreement with ExecLink to compare the cost and feasibility of three models for administering the Child Support Enforcement Program at a cost of \$8,000; and 3) Approval of audit report for FY 2008-09. Commissioner Perry requested that the agenda also be amended to

add adoption of a resolution petitioning the Governor and General Assembly to fund construction of a COA aviation training facility in 2010-2011.

Motion was made by Matt Wood, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to amend the agenda to add the four items recommended above to the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2009 Commissioner Meeting

b. Approval of Tax Releases, Tax Refunds and Solid Waste Fee Releases

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax releases, tax refunds and solid waste fee releases:

Releases:

		County	City
1.	David Allen Elliott	117.70	
2.	Michael P. Gormley	127.18	
3.	John Colin Cunningham	125.02	
4.	James Anthony Mason	130.82	
5.	Timothy James Kessell	132.27	
6.	Thomas Henry Parker	118.09	
7.	Daniel Jefferson Fleming	158.42	
8.	Michael David Minotto	156.97	133.43
9.	Tyler Robert Jennings	113.41	
10.	Quality Oil Co., Inc.	184.67	142.07
11.	Colter Paul Blackford	217.85	
12.	Colter Paul Blackford	161.17	
13.	Charles Davis Gould	105.95	

Refunds:

1.	James E. & Patsy R. Cribbs	308.25	
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Solid Waste Fees:

	Owner's Name	Parcel ID Number	Reason for Release
1.	Elmer Lee Rountree & Hattie Life Est	P58-10A	No one living in house

c. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

Criminal Justice Partnership

Increase	010.0203.4370.02	Criminal Justice Partnership	341,750.00
Increase	010.4305.5121.00	Salaries & Wages	131,190.00
Increase	010.4305.5181.00	FICA	8,660.00
Increase	010.4305.5182.00	Retirement	9,000.00
Increase	010.4305.5183.00	Health Insurance	16,000.00
Increase	010.4305.5186.00	Workers Compensation	2,600.00
Increase	010.4305.5261.00	Departmental Supplies	5,000.00
Increase	010.4305.5310.00	Travel	11,000.00
Increase	010.4305.5311.00	Training	2,000.00
Increase	010.4305.5321.00	Telephone	2,500.00
Increase	010.4305.5325.00	Postage	2,000.00
Increase	010.4305.5352.01	Maintenance-Office Equipment	6,000.00
Increase	010.4305.5400.00	Rent	14,400.00
Increase	010.4305.5440.05	Financial Services	6,500.00
Increase	010.4305.5440.06	Substance Abuse Treatment	136,400.00
Increase	010.4305.5450.00	Insurance-General Liability	6,500.00

Commissioners

Increase	010.4110.5310.00	Travel	1,000.00
Decrease	010.6900.5991.00	Contingency	1,000.00

EMS

Increase	010.0550.4839.01	Miscellaneous Revenue-EMS	4,086.00
Increase	010.4370.5353.00	Maintenance-Vehicle	4,086.00

d. Approval of Contract with Maximus Consulting Service, Inc.

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a contract with Maximus to prepare the indirect cost allocation plans for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2009 through 2011. The cost will remain the same as previous years at \$4,275 per year.

e. Approval of Recommendation from Finance Committee and Water Committee regarding Additional Water Taps along Halstead Boulevard Corridor

The Finance Committee has recommended the adoption of a new policy stating that only the Board of Commissioners can sign letters approving taps for the Halstead Boulevard line until there is a signed agreement in place with the City of Elizabeth City. The Finance Committee also recommended approval of a recommendation from staff that the county would collect the first \$119,000 of any additional impact fees paid by developers along the corridor instead of the city paying the \$119,000 directly to the county in order to cover the city’s portion of the existing line along Halstead Boulevard. This is the only item that remains in contention for the water agreements with the city.

f. Approval of Sale of Truck to Camden County

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the sale of Pasquotank County’s share of the Soil & Water Conservation truck to Camden County for \$6,687.

g. Approval of Request to Fill Vacant Positions

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve a request from the Sheriff’s Department to fill a vacant deputy position, and a request from the Social Services Department to fill a position in Children’s Medicaid and a vacancy in the Child Welfare Supervisor position.

h. Approval of Agreement with ExecLink

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of an agreement with ExecLink to compare the cost and feasibility of three organizational models for administering the Child Support Enforcement Program in Pasquotank County for a cost of \$8,000.

i. Approval of Audit Report

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the audit report for FY 2008-09 as received at the Finance Committee meeting today.

j. Adoption of Resolution Petitioning the Governor and General Assembly to Fund Construction of a COA Aviation Training Facility in 2010-2011

Commissioner Wood said this resolution came out of a recent meeting of the College of The Albemarle Board of Trustees to give the counties in the COA service region a vehicle to support the money needed to get the FAA approved training program through College of The Albemarle.

A RESOLUTION TO THE HONORABLE BEVERLY PERDUE, GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

NOW WHEREAS the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Aviation Research and Development Commerce Park has been very successful in attracting high-wage employers in the heart of the fourth poorest Congressional district in the United States,

AND WHEREAS, DRS Technologies already employs 300 engaged in the maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircraft (MRO) adjacent to the Aviation Park,

AND WHEREAS, the average salary at DRS of more than \$48,500 is more than \$21,000 higher than the average private sector salary in Pasquotank County,

AND WHEREAS, DRS already has leased four sites in the Aviation Park for future expansion,

AND WHEREAS, Pasquotank County has been identified in a Workforce Needs Assessment study prepared for the Golden LEAF Foundation as a county with a high concentration of aerospace industries,

AND WHEREAS, the Golden LEAF study projects that aerospace companies doing business in North Carolina will need to fill nearly 6,000 positions by the year 2017,

AND WHEREAS, the Golden LEAF study identifies certification of an FAA-approved training provider as a key necessity for aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul operations,

AND WHEREAS, the Aviation Park has the potential to provide tremendous economic opportunity to citizens of the entire seven-county region served by the College of the Albemarle *provided* they have the opportunity to train for these positions,

AND WHEREAS, the planners of the Aviation Park had the foresight to include space for a 15-acre campus for a College of the Albemarle FAA-certified Airframe and Power Plant maintenance training facility and the Elizabeth City State University School of Aviation Science,

AND WHEREAS, the \$2.5-million College of the Albemarle facility has been designed so that it could be built stand-alone prior to the construction of the \$15-million Elizabeth City State University School of Aviation Science,

AND WHEREAS, the absence of an FAA-certified training program at the Aviation Park will force DRS and other future tenants of the Aviation Park to import employees from other states and other regions that have such programs,

AND WHEREAS, the College of the Albemarle has been awarded \$580,000 by Golden LEAF to hire an individual qualified to develop an FAA-certified Airframe and Power Plant maintenance program,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Commission petitions the Honorable Beverly Perdue, Governor and the members of North Carolina General Assembly to fund construction of the College of the Albemarle facility in the 2010-2011 fiscal year so that the citizens of the seven-county regions served by the College of the Albemarle may have the same opportunity to compete for jobs in the aerospace industry in their own backyard as citizens from other states and other regions where FAA-certified programs already exist. Passed this 21st day of December in the year 2009.

The resolution will be given to Governor Purdue when she is in town on January 19.

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

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

Refunds:

		County	City
1.	Edgar Hurff II	32.00	

6. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF ALBEMARLE RC&D COUNCIL, INC.:

The Board considered the following resolution recognizing the achievements of Albemarle RC&D Council, Inc.:

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

WHEREAS, Albemarle RC&D Council, Inc. is a local non-profit tax exempt charity serving the Albemarle region which includes Pasquotank County, and

WHEREAS, Albemarle RC&D Council, Inc. has a mission to promote environmental quality and conservation while working to ensure sustained economic development, and

WHEREAS, Albemarle RC&D Council, Inc. has completed over 110 projects since 1972 benefitting the citizens in the Pasquotank County service area, and

WHEREAS, Albemarle RC&D Council, Inc. is committed to continuing to serve the citizens in the Pasquotank County service area, and

WHEREAS, All programs and services of Albemarle RC&D Council, Inc. are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, disability or political beliefs.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners fully supports Albemarle RC&D Council, Inc. and the work this organization does to make our communities better places in which to live and work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the meeting minutes of the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners on December 21, 2009 as a permanent record of the achievements of Albemarle RC&D Council, Inc.

ADOPTED this 21st day of December, 2009.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Matt Wood to adopt the proposed resolution of support for Albemarle RC&D Council. The motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSIDERATION OF ISSUANCE OF RECOVERY ZONE BONDS:

County Manager Randy Keaton explained that recovery zone bonds are part of the stimulus program. These bonds are a subset of a group of bonds called "Build America Bonds". Pasquotank County was allocated a certain amount for recovery zone bonds and they would be issued just like a regular bond and they are issued at a taxable rate. Each year the county would receive a rebate of either 35% or 45% of the interest rate. The cost would be a little less than a traditional tax-exempt bond would be today. Mr. Keaton stated that the county does not have any new programs, however was going to issue about \$1 million in additional financing for the jail project to cover the overrun. He said an application had to be submitted to the state and he needs the Board to approve the specific project in order to complete the application process.

Motion was made by Matt Wood, seconded by Cecil Perry to adopt a resolution approving the use of recovery zone bonds to cover the cost overrun on the jail project. The motion carried unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION ON DATES AND TOPICS FOR ANNUAL BOARD RETREAT:

The Board discussed possible dates for the Board's annual retreat. The Board agreed to hold the retreat on Monday, January 25 at the Weeksville Lions Club. Board members mentioned various topics to possibly be included on the agenda including Mental Health, retirement, Child Support Services, topics discussed during the County Manager's evaluation, Special Projects Committee items, and race relations. The Chairman and the County Manager will work together to develop a draft agenda for the retreat.

9. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT:

The County Manager stated that Commissioners received an email from the AEDC about the Committee of 100 quarterly economic development luncheon on Wednesday, January 6 at 12:00 PM. Those planning to attend should respond to the County Manager's Office by December 31.

10. COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

County Attorney Mike Cox advised that he has a court date on January 25, the date planned for the retreat, and will probably not be available from 9:30 AM until about 11:00 AM that day. He said if there are any items that need his attention, they should probably be planned for the afternoon.

11. CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk stated that the Extension Director has provided two possible dates for the Annual Commissioners' Luncheon. She asked that the Board select a date so the Extension Service can begin planning. The Board selected Monday, March 1 as the date for the luncheon.

12. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Jeff Dixon stated that Commissioner Paul O'Neal from Currituck County has expressed an interest in the Boards of Commissioners of Currituck, Camden and Pasquotank County having a meeting to discuss regional issues such as the OLF. He suggested that the County Managers coordinate such a meeting.

Commissioner Bill Trueblood reported that the last several months, especially the last couple of weeks, have been challenging with regard to stormwater. He said as Chairman of the Stormwater Management Committee he is putting together an ad hoc task force of knowledgeable people to try to do some brainstorming on different ways to address stormwater issues. He advised that they are targeting January 12 at 9:30 AM as a meeting time.

Commissioner Matt Wood reported on the COA president search. He said a lot of work has been done and there is still a lot of work to do. He stated that six potential candidates have been selected and they will each be visiting the area in January. Commissioner Wood added that he is encouraged by what he has seen.

Commissioner Jimmie Harris stated that the Board of Commissioners has two members on the Hospital Board and he would like to see them work with the leaders at Albemarle Hospital to get the hospital back in good shape.

Chairman Stevenson reported that he had a meeting last week with School Superintendent Linwood Williams and School Board Chairman Mark Small and they discussed technical training in the high schools and how it might tie in with future student development for a career path toward the aviation industry. He said he had asked them if they had considered a program such as CamTech at Camden County High School. He stated that they advised they had looked at such a program, but instead have introduced a number of technical courses and vocational training in their curriculum. He said they provided him with a list of the courses that they offer at the two high schools. Chairman Stevenson stated that it seems to him that the schools are trying to work with children who may or may not go to college. He said they are also looking at enhancing that program. He stated that Mr. Williams and Mr. Small advised that they have had a lot of discussion amongst their board members regarding where to go, how to improve test scores, etc. He said he asked Mr. Williams what he felt was the reason for dropouts in the county and his answer was reading. He explained that it starts at a very early age and if a child does not get the background in reading, then he may be doomed. He said they are taking steps to try to rally those people in the inner-city. Chairman Stevenson said he came away from that meeting impressed with what the Board of Education was doing. He stated that he thinks the Board of Commissioners should get behind the Board of Education and support them in this effort. He suggested that the two boards meet and discuss how the Board of Commissioners can support the Board of Education in their efforts. Vice-Chairman Lloyd Griffin advised that he has asked Economic Developer Wayne Harris to contact a Mr. Habit who is familiar with setting up Vo-Tech in Aviation in the Greensboro area. He said this might also be included as an agenda item for a meeting with the Board of Education. The County Manager will coordinate with the Superintendent on a possible meeting date.

Commissioner Cecil Perry reported that he went to a recent Resource Conservation & Development Council meeting in Plymouth where Chairman Stevenson was honored. He stated that he was pleased to see this and believes that members of the Board need to look at supporting one another and projecting themselves so the community realizes what the Board is doing.

Commissioner Bill Trueblood asked if the Governor will be meeting with any county staff while she is in town on January 19th. Mr. Keaton said he understands the Governor will be touring the Airpark, but the county has not been directly involved in planning for this event.

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

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Jimmie Harris to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK