

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
FEBRUARY 16, 2015**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, February 16, 2015 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Chairman  
Cecil Perry, Vice-Chairman  
Jeff Dixon  
Dr. William R. Sterritt  
Frankie Meads  
Bettie J. Parker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Lloyd E. Griffin, III (*Out of Town*)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Rodney Bunch, County Manager  
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney  
Karen Jennings, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Joe Winslow. Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry gave the invocation and Commissioner William Sterritt led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Winslow welcomed the guests attending tonight's meeting including Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer, President of COA; Marion Harris, Chairman of the COA Board of Trustees; EMS Director Jerry Newell; and Mr. John Woodard.

**1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

Chairman Winslow asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry requested that the agenda be amended to add the following recommendations from today's Finance Committee meeting to the consent agenda: 1) Approval of tax releases and refunds and solid waste fee releases and refunds; 2) Approval of budget amendment; 3) Approval of late property tax exemption application; and 4) Approval of request to declare property as surplus. The County Attorney requested to add to the consent agenda a recommendation from the Finance Committee to hire the Twiford Law Firm to assist with a legal matter.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Jeff Dixon to add the five items recommended by the Finance Committee to the consent agenda. The motion carried.

**2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2015 Commissioner Meeting

b. Approval of Tax Releases & Refunds

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

Releases:

	County	City
1. Dona W. Yunker & Lisa Y. White	411.00	
2. Jeremy W. Humphreys	126.36	
3. Martha Frances Shannon	411.00	276.75
4. Joseph Milton Jr. & Patricia Thomas Spruill	107.16	
5. SAT-DEV LLC	272.08	220.17
6. Janice King Lunsford		262.50
7. Hunters Lake Property Owners Association	120.08	97.17
8. Duane Shreeves	135.26	
9. Mary Johnson Armstrong	278.92	
10. Gracie Meads Heirs	235.60	
11. Adams Landing NC LLC	200.64	162.36
12. Spud's Colonial Restaurant	239.39	193.72
13. David L. Baldowski		217.50

## Refunds:

1.	Charlie Shelton Ralph, Jr.		231.32
2.	Gary Edwin Zuniga	127.13	104.89
3.	Trimpi & Nash	170.24	137.76
4.	Arron Jerrod Moore	112.66	89.65

## Solid Waste Releases:

OWNER'S NAME	PARCEL ID NUMBER	REASON FOR RELEASE
Walter Averill	P7-20	Vacant for 20 years
Vivian Butts Etal	P142-15	Vacant since 2000
Billie Lee Gibson	P126-33	Vacant since 2010
J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, NC	P48-25	Vacant 2+ Years
J. Winton Sawyer Heirs	31-B-0	Vacant since 2005
Daniel Michael Serik	P132A-135	Vacant since 2006
Byron U. Swain	71-A-139 thru 141	Vacant 2+ Years
Phillipe Respass	12-E-3	Vacant since 2009
Tony & Cordelia G. Spence	P112-96	Vacant since 2010

## Solid Waste Refunds

1.	Billie & Corrine White	P107-18B	Vacant since 2009
2.	Elizabeth Brower	P140-2-1	Vacant 2+ years

c. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

## IT

Increase	010.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	16,500.00
Increase	010.4135.5352.01	Maintenance-Office Equipment	16,500.00

## Economic Development

Increase	010.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	8,000.00
Increase	010.4920.5440.00	Contracted Services	8,000.00

d. Approval of EMS Rate Increase

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a new fee schedule for Pasquotank-Camden EMS effective July 1, 2015 as follows:

PCEMS Fee Schedule  
As of 07/01/2015

EMS Charge Code	HCPCS	EMS Description of Charge	Medicare Urban Rate Allowable	Medicare Rural Rate Allowable	Rate at 130% of Medicare Allowable	Current Rate	FY 2016 Rate
MILE	A0425	Mileage 1-16	7.16	10.85	14.11	12.00	13.00
MILE	A0425	Mileage 16+	7.16	7.23	9.40	12.00	13.00
ALS1	A0426	ALS Non-emergency	253.98	256.47	333.41	350.00	350.00
ALS1E	A0427	ALS Emergency	402.13	406.07	527.89	450.00	475.00
BLSN/BLST	A0428	BLS Non-emergency	211.65	213.72	277.84	300.00	300.00
BLSE	A0429	BLS Emergency	338.64	341.96	444.55	375.00	400.00
ALS2	A0433	ALS Major Emergency	582.03	587.84	764.19	625.00	700.00
ALST	A0999	ALS Tx no Transport	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
STANDBY1-2		Standby fee first 2 hours (flat fee)				80.00	80.00/flat
STANDBY3-4		Standby fee 3-4 hrs (per hr for 3&4)				40.00/hr	40.00/hr
STANDBYX		Standby fee for additional hours				10.00/30 mins	20.00/hr
ATTFEE		Attorney fee for record request				0.00	10.00/occurrence

e. Approval of \$3,500 Contribution for North Carolina Potato Festival

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve a contribution of \$3,500 from tourism funds to support the North Carolina Potato Festival this year. The committee also recommended a \$3,500 annual appropriation going forward as long as the festival continues as a three day event.

*f. Approval to Close-Out Scattered Site CDBG Project*

The Finance Committee has recommended approval to close-out the 2010 Scattered Site Community Development Block Grant Project. The project has officially been closed out by the state and it now needs to be closed out on the county's books.

*g. Approval to Close-Out Bookkeeping for Fairgrounds Joint Redevelopment Project*

The Finance Committee has recommended approval to close-out the bookkeeping for the Fairgrounds Joint Redevelopment Project. The final piece of property was acquired in the prior fiscal year and the city and county have each paid the final share of the costs to close-out the project.

*h. Approval of Late Property Tax Exemption Application*

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve an application for a late property tax exemption or exclusion application. The application was submitted by New Beginning United Fellowship Church and was submitted after the close of the listing period, therefore it must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. The total amount of county tax to be excluded is \$1,700.12.

*i. Approval to Declare Property as Surplus*

The Water Department has requested that the following items be declared surplus so they can be sold on GovDeals.com:

- 2005 Ford Ranger, VIN# 1FTYR10U86PA21468, miles 145,592, needs fuel pump
- 60 empty 55 gallon plastic drums

*j. Approval to Hire the Twiford Law Firm to Assist with a Legal Matter*

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve the hiring of the Twiford Law Firm to assist the county with a legal matter.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Jeff Dixon to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion carried.

**3. APPROVAL OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION:**

County Manager Rodney Bunch explained that the Albemarle Resource Conservation & Development Council has requested that the Board send a letter of support for the Little River Watershed Innovative Stormwater Project application that has been submitted to the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The project proposes to construct in-stream wetlands along privately owned canals that drain 6,000 acres of agricultural land into the headwaters of the Little River Watershed. The project cost is estimated to be \$191,000 and the grant application is for \$150,000. The remaining \$41,000 match would be funded through a \$25,000 grant which is pending from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and an in-kind match which will consist of land value of wetlands and soil and water staff time. Mr. Bunch noted that the county will not have to provide a cash match.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Bettie Parker to send a letter of support for the Little River Watershed Innovative Stormwater Project application submitted to the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The motion carried.

**4. TERMINATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CAMDEN COUNTY:**

County Attorney Mike Cox explained that the Emergency Medical Services Agreement between Pasquotank County and Camden County dated November 5, 2012 needs to be terminated. He said the agreement provides that unless either party provides notice by the end of this month of intent to terminate, the existing agreement would extend for an additional two years on June 30, 2015. He stated that obviously with the ongoing negotiations on a new agreement between the two parties the existing agreement needs to be terminated.

Motion was made by Frankie Meads, seconded by Cecil Perry to terminate the current Emergency Medical Services Agreement between Pasquotank County and Camden County dated November 5, 2012. The motion carried.

**5. REPORT FROM COUNTY MANAGER:**

Mr. Bunch reminded everyone of the legislative forum scheduled for Friday, February 20 at 10:00 AM in City Council Chambers. He stated that the Board of Commissioners and the City Council will discuss legislative issues with Senator Cook, Rep. Steinburg and Rep. Hunter. He added that Chairman Winslow will present the top five goals that were approved at the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference. He asked if members of the Board have other items they would like to discuss with the legislators to let him know this week.

**6. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

Commissioner Dixon reported that the Appointments Committee met this afternoon and would like to make the following recommendations:

Pasquotank County Library Board - Reappoint Joycelyn Robinson (formerly a city appointee) as a county appointee; appoint Dorsey Harris to replace Neli Fernandez who has resigned. The appointment of Mr. Harris will have to lay over until the next meeting since this is a new appointment.

Aging Advisory Council - Reappoint Sue Norton to an additional term.

Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee - Reappoint Vandora Saunders and Lynne Pike to additional terms.

Highway 17 Association Board of Directors - Reappoint Jeff Dixon to an additional term.

Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee - Reappoint Betty Jones to an additional term.

Commissioner Dixon stated that the Board also needs to make appointments to the Elizabeth City Board of Adjustment and the Elizabeth City Planning Board. County appointees to these boards must live in the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Cecil Perry to approve the appointments as recommended by the Appointments Committee with the exception of the appointment of Dorsey Harris to the Library Board, which will lay over until the next meeting since it is a new appointment. The motion carried.

**7. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Sterritt reported that Bobbi White, Parks & Recreation Director, is working on the Parks & Recreation budget proposals. He stated that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee members were asked at their recent meeting what they would like to see included in the budget. Commissioner Sterritt said he would like to see some repairs done to the walking trail around the large pond at Fun Junktion. He stated that Mrs. White explained that since this is in the county the repairs would be a county expense. He said he does not know what the cost will be at this point, but he would like to investigate what could possibly be done and then come back to the Board with a proposal. He noted that he would not like to see the county's share of the Parks & Recreation budget be increased for these repairs.

Commissioner Sterritt stated that Elizabeth City Downtown will be meeting in a few days and the big topic is currently the Potato Festival which is the largest fund-raising event for Elizabeth City Downtown. He said Elizabeth City Downtown is comprised of a great group of individuals from various businesses and organizations.

Commissioner Sterritt reported that he has had an opportunity to be sworn in as a member of the Social Services Board and will be bringing regular updates to the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Meads reported that some of the Commissioners did not attend the meeting last week on wind turbines. He stated that information was presented at the meeting regarding the negative effects of wind turbines. He said it was pointed out that a county in New York where wind turbines are located has the highest rate of cancer of any county in the state. He said it was also stated that there is more radiation as a result of radar hitting the wind turbines than there would be from a nuclear power plant. Commissioner Meads added that the Board may need to look at increasing the cost of building permits for wind turbines.

Commissioner Meads stated that the county's population in 2010 was 41,844 and in 2014 the population was 39,458, a decrease of 2,386. He said school enrollment in 2007 was 6,374, in 2013 it was 5,691, and in 2014 the school system picked up 103 new students. The retail sales for 2005 were \$581 million, and in 2014 were \$381 million, a difference of \$200 million. The current employment rate is 9% and two years ago it was 10%. In 2011 the county was paying interest in the amount of \$752,000 and principal in the amount of \$527,000 on its debt. In 2015 the interest payments total \$622,000 and the principal totals \$618,000. He pointed out that the county is going in the right direction to reduce its debt. Commissioner Meads said he is providing this information for the Board to keep in mind as it will soon begin working on the 2015-16 budget.

Commissioner Meads reported that Albemarle Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) met with the Albemarle Commission to discuss whether RC&D might be able to join the Albemarle Commission since RC&D has lost its state and federal funding. He said there are more questions that need be answered before it can be determined whether the two groups could work together. He outlined the most recent projects that have been completed by Albemarle RC&D. He stated that RC&D will soon need to determine how to proceed in the future.

Commissioner Sterritt commented that RC&D, through grant-writing and by seeking funds in the community, was able to help build the walking trail on the campus of College of the Albemarle. He said this was a \$300,000 project over a five year period of time. He said if it had not been for the efforts of RC&D and especially Rodney Johnson, the walking trail would not have been possible. He added that Albemarle Hospital was able to provide \$50,000 to build the portion of the project on the hospital's property. He stated that he agrees that RC&D has done a great job over the years and is very valuable in the multi-county area.

Commissioner Meads added that most of the projects done by RC&D have been done with grants that have cost the counties very little money.

Commissioner Parker reported that she, Chairman Winslow and Vice-Chairman Perry attended the kickoff event for Coast Guard Elizabeth City's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. She stated that Commander Bruce Brown and the Coast Guard are interested in continuing to embrace the community and helping in whatever ways they can.

Vice-Chairman Perry stated that the Albemarle District Jail currently has 32 federal prisoners which is a low number. He advised that the jail is financially sound.

Vice-Chairman Perry stated that he will make a report at the next meeting regarding Albemarle Home Care and Albemarle Hospice and efforts by the Health Department to transfer ownership of these agencies.

Commissioner Sterritt pointed out that two members of the Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Perry and Commissioner Dixon, will be honored on March 7 by Elizabeth City State University for their community involvement. He said he would like for all of the members of the Board to get behind them and support them. He stated that both of these men have done an outstanding job in this community and he is glad to see them being recognized. Commissioner Dixon explained that he personally purchased his table for this event and plans to invite the staff from the Boys & Girls Club to sit at his table and enjoy the evening. Chairman Winslow stated that he wants to promote the Board Members attending this event to show their support. The County Manager asked that anyone who would like to attend let his staff know so they can purchase the tickets.

Chairman Winslow reported that he had an opportunity to be involved in the ribbon-cutting for the new College of The Albemarle welding lab last week. He said for those who did not attend, it was a very nice event during which the Board of Commissioners was recognized for its support and participation. He stated that he and the County Manager were the only representatives from Pasquotank County who attended that event and he wished every Commissioner could have been there. He added that the welding lab is a first class facility and will provide an opportunity for many students.

Chairman Winslow explained that at COA's Board of Trustees meeting last week, it was announced that COA's nursing school excelled in four distinct areas of nursing this year. He said 100% of the students in all four areas passed their final certification. He noted that probably

no other college that offers those courses has had the success that COA has. He stated that the Board of Commissioners has some responsibility for that success due to its financial support and other support for College of The Albemarle. He said this means a great deal to the residents of the area.

Chairman Winslow reported that during the COA Board of Trustees meeting he presented the recommendation from a former County Commissioner to reduce the size of the COA Board of Trustees. He said the Board of Trustees thoroughly discussed this recommendation and it was determined that the reduction in the number of trustees would hurt the Board negatively rather than being positive. He stated that the Board of Trustees suggested that the Board remain as it is with 19 members and he agreed with them.

Chairman Winslow said he would like to congratulate Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer who has been appointed to the Board of Accreditation for the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities.

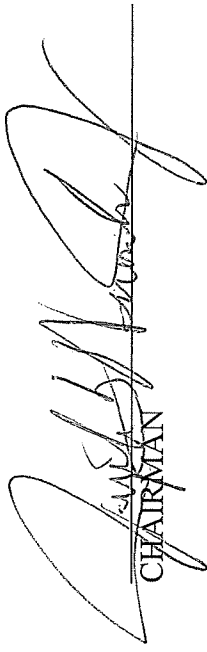
Chairman Winslow asked COA Board Chairman Marion Harris if he would like to address the Board. Mr. Harris said he appreciates Chairman Winslow recognizing Dr. Deitemeyer. He said he would like to note that no one on the COA Board of Trustees was in favor of changing the size of the Board of Trustees as it was a unanimous vote to leave the Board as it is.

Commissioner Dixon stated that he would like to change the time of the EMS monthly meetings to a time other than 7:30 AM. He asked that staff begin working on a time change.

The County Manager stated that he has conferred with Chairman Winslow and they agreed that county departments will be operating on a two-hour delay tomorrow due to the snow and ice predicted to affect the area tonight. The Clerk informed the Board of several meeting cancellations this week due to the weather.

Chairman Winslow 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 Cecil Perry to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

  
CHAIRMAN

  
CLERK TO THE BOARD