

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 5, 2018**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, March 5, 2018 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cecil Perry, Chairman
Dr. William R. Sterritt, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Dixon
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr.
Frankie Meads
Charles H. Jordan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lloyd E. Griffin, III

OTHERS PRESENT: R. Michael Cox, County Attorney/Acting County Manager
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Cecil Perry. Commissioner Charles Jordan gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Sheep-Harney Elementary students Kamryn Smallwood and Dariusus Eure. Chairman Perry recognized Principle Katina Jones-Waples. He welcomed everyone present.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Perry asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Vice-Chairman Sterritt recommended the agenda be amended to add the following items recommended by the Finance Committee today: 1) Approval of Pay Grade/Step for transfer truck driver; 2) Approval of Pay Grade/Step for EMT; 3) Approval of request from ECPPS to re-designate funds; and 4) Approval of 2017-18 audit contract.

Motion was made by Bill Sterritt, seconded by Jeff Dixon to amend the agenda to add the above items to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

2. TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORT:

Chairman Perry recognized Bland Baker, Northern Regional Director, who thanked the Board for the opportunity to come before them. He also thanked Commissioner Jordan, who is the newest member on the Trillium Advisory Board, for meeting with him a couple weeks ago and said he looks forward to working with him.

Mr. Bland provided a PowerPoint presentation. He said Trillium's mission is to transform the lives of people in need by providing ready access to quality care. Although the mission is simple, Trillium's efforts to accomplish this mission are not. He stated that Trillium, as well as all MCO's face continuous changes. Recurring budget cuts from the state and federal governments and proposed Medicaid reform cause them to adapt and evolve in order for them to continue to meet their contractual and regulatory obligations.

On November 15, 2017, Trillium announced an important step towards securing their position as a leader in Managed Care in North Carolina. He explained that they are working with two other MCO's, Alliance Behavioral Health and Vaya Health to form a new coalition known as Advance NC Whole Health. It is a partnership, not a merger. Trillium believes by aligning their strengths and shared experiences, they can maximize their impact as they prepare for Medicaid Reform.

Mr. Baker stated that Nash County joined Trillium in July, 2017, increasing the total population for the 25 counties to 1,355,828. With the addition of Nash County, there are 195,000 who are Medicaid eligible.

Each year Trillium is required by the state to perform a gaps and needs study. They review demographic and health information data, national prevalence data for MH/DD/SA issues, survey participants and stakeholders, complaints and grievances, and geo-mapping data. The process includes online surveys, on-site work with CFACs and Boards, compile and analyze data, develop strategies to address gaps and needs and present action plan to Board for adoption.

Mr. Baker reported that in 2016, Trillium served approximately 52,650 people (79% with mental health needs, 19% with substance use disorders, and 9% with intellectual and developmental disabilities), at a cost of \$355,201,859.

Each year Trillium develops annual priorities to help staff determine where they should target their efforts. Their current priorities include: 1) Every person first, every time - Activities that improve customer services to all customers; 2) Trillium 2020 Vision - Evidenced based services, crisis services to enhance quality; 3) Advancing Technology - Strengthen the use of technology; 4) One community together - Improve local community relationships through advisory boards and systems of care; and 5) Enterprise Integration - Work together to ensure a consistent level of functioning in all departments.

Mr. Baker stated that North Carolina will receive \$31 million over the next two years to address the Opioid Crisis through the Cures Act. Trillium's allocation for the first year is \$1.2 million. The funding is designated for new individuals seeking opioid treatment for the first time or individuals who have been out of treatment and are ready to seek treatment again. As of December, Trillium has spent all \$1.2 million serving approximately 1,269 new consumers. Many counties have held Opioid Forums that have focused on Education, Prevention and Treatment. He stated that Healing Transitions in Raleigh has had 354 admissions from the Trillium catchment area that are looking for long term, peer led treatment for substance use disorders. The Oxford Houses has served 242 individuals in sober living homes including women and children. N.C. Harm Reduction has distributed 2,245 opioid overdose kits in the Trillium catchment area. Wellness Cities in Greenville, Wilmington, and New Bern have provided peer support services to hundreds in recovery.

Mr. Baker provided a summary of Trillium's reinvestment project. He said the total cost of their reinvestments is \$34 million. Initially, they designated \$64 million of their money to go to reinvestment services in the community, but their budget was cut over \$53 million and their reinvestment savings were used to replace that money.

Mr. Baker said Trillium has reestablished several summer programs, after school programs, and respite for children with I/DD (12 Summer Day Programs, serving 380 youth and seven after school programs serving 218 students). He said 30 handicapped accessible playgrounds have been installed. They introduced Child First/Child-Parent Psychotherapy, which is intervention for children 0-6 who have experienced trauma leading to mental health issues. Thirty two clinicians have been trained and 926 children have been served. He said they did Rachel's Challenge in 289 schools and 136,000 children participated. The program addresses bullying amongst students. He stated that they have been doing mental health first aid training as well.

Mr. Baker ended by saying 1,685 consumers were served in Pasquotank County alone. Of those consumers, 1,412 had mental health struggles, 200 received substance abuse treatment, and 203 were served for Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities. Port Human Services in Elizabeth City has added Methadone treatment to their services, which should be up and running in about two weeks.

Commissioner Sterritt noted that Trillium donated \$600,000 to the Parks & Recreation Department for a playground on County Property. He said it has been well used and much appreciated. He thanked Commissioner Dixon for spearheading the opioid forum held earlier in the year.

Commissioner Dixon stated that many counties are lining up to file a Class Action Lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies. He asked where Trillium stands on the lawsuit and if money were gained from the lawsuit would Trillium benefit from the funds. Mr. Baker said it is a political issue and therefore they must be neutral in terms of filing a suit, but he noted that they have supplied numbers and costs on what opioids have cost counties based on data they have collected. He hopes that eventually funds would come back to them because they are the ones who contract with providers to provide services. Commissioner Dixon asked how Trillium's relationship with Sentara has been. Mr. Baker said he thinks it is a good relationship.

Commissioner Winslow asked for an update on mental transfers. Mr. Baker said initially \$24 million was allotted to build a facility in Greenville and in Wilmington, but it did not move

forward because of budget cuts. He said they are looking at other ways to try to move forward with the project. He said they were able to purchase some beds in Raleigh.

Chairman Perry asked if Trillium is involved in the tele-site program at the Health Department. Mr. Baker said they do have a pilot project with the Health Department. He said they supplied some funding to put a clinician in the Health Department that can see patients for out-patient treatment and they also have a tele-psychiatry program. He stated that the Health Department has been a great partner. He noted that they purchased and placed a kiosk in the Health Department which is attached to a website that screens for eight different diagnoses, some of which are substance abuse and some are mental health.

3. COMMENTS BY GEORGE HAGUE:

Chairman Perry recognized Mr. George Hague who said he is here to address the Board regarding their decision to place the one-quarter percent sales and use tax referendum on the May 8th ballot. Mr. Hague said he is not sure what the Board is planning to roll out different from the two previous times. He noted that Currituck County hired Evergreen Solutions to perform an independent audit of the Currituck County School System to analyze how they are using their local funds. He feels Pasquotank County should do the same, because verifying our school needs and what they are spending would go a long way towards credibility.

4. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH:

Chairman Perry asked Ms. Carolyn Self, Community Volunteer Leader to accept a proclamation for American Red Cross Month. He read and presented the following proclamation to Ms. Self:

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH 2018

A Proclamation

The American Red Cross saw a record-breaking year in 2017 of challenging domestic and international response efforts. Through the support of its volunteers, in just 45 days, the Red Cross responded to six of the largest and most complex disasters of 2017 including back-to-back hurricanes, the deadliest week of wildfires in California history, and the horrific mass shooting in Las Vegas. In addition, the Red Cross responded to nearly 50,000 home fires in 2017, providing casework assistance to help 76,000 families recover.

March is American Red Cross Month, a special time to recognize and thank the Red Cross volunteers and donors who give of their time and resources to help members of the community. The Red Cross depends on these local heroes to deliver help and hope during a disaster. We applaud our heroes here in Pasquotank County who give of themselves to assist their neighbors when they need a helping hand.

Across the country and around the world, the American Red Cross responds to disasters big and small. It collects about 40 percent of the nation's blood supply; provides 24-hour support to military members, veterans and their families; teaches millions lifesaving skills such as lifeguarding and CPR; and through its Restoring Family Links program, connects family members separated by crisis, conflict or migration.

We dedicate the month of March to all those who support the American Red Cross mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. Our community depends on the American Red Cross, which relies on donations of time, money and blood to fulfill its humanitarian mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims March 2018 as American Red Cross Month and encourages all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

Ms. Self thanked the Board for their continuing support of the American Red Cross. She said January 4, 1918 the American Red Cross opened the Pasquotank County chapter here in Elizabeth City. She said she has been with the Red Cross for 26 of the 100 years. Through the years many small chapters around us have closed their doors and the only reason they were able to continue was because of the support of our community. She said their staff, volunteers and

community give so much of their time, their blood, and their money. She stated that they are the only chapter in the United States that provides Coast Guard rescues with clothing, shoes, towels and whatever else they need, as well as a place to stay and food to eat. Next month they will have a new program coming out called Sound the Alarm. They will be placing smoke alarms in homes that have nonworking or no smoke alarms in their homes at no cost to the client. She said since the programs started over 300 lives have been saved. The Board thanked Ms. Self for her service.

5. APPOINTMENT TO COA BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Mr. Jordan stated that on February 19, 2018 the Board accepted recommendations from the Appointments Committee to nominate Robert Phippen, Jr. to fill Don McCabe’s unexpired term on the COA Board of Trustees and to nominate Dr. Anthony Sharp to replace Doug Gardner on the COA Board of Trustees when his term expires on June 30, 2018. He asked if there were any further nomination.

There being no further nomination;

Motion was made Charles Jordan, seconded by Bill Sterritt to close nominations. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Bill Sterritt to appoint Robert Phippen, Jr. to fill the unexpired term of Don McCabe on the COA Board of Trustees and to appoint Dr. Anthony Sharp to replace Doug Gardner on the COA Board of Trustees when his term expires on June 30, 2018. The motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of February 5, 19, and 20, 2018 Commissioner Meetings

Commissioner Dixon asked that the February 20 minutes be corrected to state the correct board appointment.

b. Approval of Solid Waste Fee Releases

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following solid waste fee releases:

Solid Waste Fee Release

		<i>Parcel ID #</i>	<i>Reason for Release</i>
1.	Walter Averill	P70-20	Vacant
2.	Bessie H. Bartell Life Est.	58-K-59	Vacant
3.	Verlin Williams	P80-4A	Vacant
4.	Verlin William & Donna Walker	P112-9	Vacant

c. Approval of Purchase and Sale Agreement for Real Property between Pasquotank and Camden Counties:

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the purchase and sale agreement allowing Camden County to purchase Pasquotank County’s 1/3 undivided interest in the “NCDC Building” and the “Camden Medical Park” for \$275,000.

d. Approval for Pay Grade/Step for Transfer Truck Driver

The Finance Committee has recommended hiring Roy Pike to fill the position previously held by Kenneth Jones. Mr. Pike would start at the departments existing Grade 14. He will be placed on Step 6, (\$33,616) based on his ten+ years of prior driving experience, with the understanding that after a successful 6-month probationary period he will be promoted to Step 7.

e. Approval for Pay Grade/Step for EMT Position

The Finance Committee has recommended hiring Patricia Sawyer to fill a vacant EMT position. Ms. Sawyer has been working part time for EMS since January of 2010, totaling 8 years of service. She is currently paid at Grade 14/Step 8. Jerry Newell is recommending she be hired full time at Grade 14/Step 8 (\$35,245). Her official hire date will be March 16, 2018.

f. Approval of Request from ECPPS to Re-designate Funds

Andrew Cox, ECPPS Finance Officer, has informed staff that ECPPS would like to run fiber from Central Elementary School to the warehouse and bus garage in order to get those two locations off of what is essentially dial up access. The project is estimated to cost \$13,013. He said \$40K was allocated for the P.W. Moore phone replacement project and he believes the project will come in at \$25K. He is requesting they be allowed to use any remaining funds from the P.W. Moore project to cover the cost of the fiber project at the warehouse and bus garage. The Finance Committee has recommended approval of this request.

g. Approval of 2017-18 Audit Contract

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the 2017-18 Audit Contract with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A. in the amount of \$23,000. The State has chosen the Pasquotank-Camden Ambulance Retirement account to be audited. This will be an additional \$3,000 that will be incorporated in the 2018-19 EMS Budget.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Charles Jordan to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

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

		County	City
1.	Justin Lawrence Plante	8.89	
2.	James Howard Winslow	9.15	
3.	Sean Mulford	3.47	
4.	Virgil I. Frazier, Jr.	2.31	
5.	Marcia Phillips	9.40	
6.	Rabbit Logistics, LLC	29.13	24.78
7.	Walter Richard Hoffman, Jr.	3.81	
8.	Ronald Ray Winslow	3.09	
9.	Barry Walker Keyes	11.44	
10.	Alicia Renae White	4.57	
11.	Dora Maxine Brooks Staten	22.45	19.09
12.	Daniel James Reichenbach	3.81	3.24
13.	Donald Ray Bland		8.97
14.	Ben Forbes Burgess	4.66	
15.	First United Methodist		36.00
16.	Shery Grode	3.81	3.24
17.	Jessica A. Nunez	4.47	3.80
18.	Barbara Sealey Minogue	3.47	
19.	Barbara Sealey Minogue	3.42	
20.	Roderick Wayne Trueblood	6.35	
21.	General Motors, LLC	17.87	15.20
22.	Helen Louise Gaskins	11.44	9.72
23.	Janice Christine Graig	3.81	
24.	Norman G Knox T/A Knox Plumbing Co.	6.56	
25.	Philip Hayden Wanzer	3.47	2.95
26.	Bev Tex LLC	15.67	
27.	Patricia Temple	3.47	
28.	Kirk Peavy	3.81	3.24
29.	Christopher Younger	8.72	
30.	Aaron Hague	14.48	
31.	Kevin Troy Sawyer	7.62	
32.	Justin Adam Brown	3.38	
33.	Justin Adam Brown	3.09	
34.	Joseph Wayne Clifford	3.09	2.62
35.	Jesse Harmon	17.53	14.91
36.	John William Carmichael	3.81	3.24
37.	Cheryl Mello	2.88	
38.	Patricia Kay Fain	41.99	

7. RECOMMENDATIONS BY APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Jordan Chairman of the Appointments Committee advised that the Appointments Committee did not meet today.

8. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING:

Commissioner Dixon said the school's currently have a list of more than \$5 million in capital needs, which would require the county to raise property taxes several cents. He said an increase in sales tax make a lot more sense to him. He feels we should try a different approach since the first two times this was put on the ballot it failed badly. He proposed listing specific needs, as well as a five (5) year "sunset" clause.

Chairman Perry agreed and said he would like to appoint a committee to advocate for the referendum. He asked Commissioner Dixon to lead the committee. Vice-Chairman Sterritt requested he be part of the committee.

Commissioner Meads said he believes we need a tax break because our taxes are too high. He said he would be in favor of the one-quarter percent sales tax provided we reduce property taxes by 1 cent.

Commissioner Jordan left the meeting, unexcused.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Joe Winslow to adopt the following resolution supporting public school funding for the proceeds generated by the one-quarter percent (0.25%) county sales and use tax. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING FOR THE
PROCEEDS GENERATED BY THE ONE-QUARTER
PERCENT (0.25 %) COUNTY SALES AND USE TAX 2018**

WHEREAS, counties are mandated to provide funding for public schools; and

WHEREAS, in the current fiscal year 2018-2019 budget, Pasquotank County appropriated approximately thirty-five percent (35%) of its budget to public schools; and

WHEREAS, the public schools are in need of additional funding for HVAC Systems, Athletic Facilities, Technology, Class Size Reduction Mandates, School Safety, and debt service for any capital projects related to schools; and

WHEREAS, the education our children receive in public schools is a priority for the citizens of Pasquotank County; and

WHEREAS, the one-quarter percent (0.25%) county sales and use tax referendum is on the ballot for the May 8, 2018 primary election; and

WHEREAS, the referendum, if approved, would generate an estimated one million dollars per year in additional revenue; and

WHEREAS, if approved and implemented, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners intends for the one-quarter percent (0.25%) county and sales use tax to "sunset" after a period of five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners believes that the passage of the referendum would be in the best interest of the citizens of Pasquotank County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, if the referendum is passed by a majority of the voters on the May 8, 2018 ballot the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners proposes to use all funds generated by the one-quarter percent (0.25%) county sales and use tax to support the public schools in Pasquotank County.

Adopted this 5th day of March, 2018.

9. REPORTS FROM ACTING COUNTY MANAGER:

Acting County Manager Mike Cox reported that he was contacted today by John Spence regarding the Board adopting a resolution supporting the installation of a culvert under US 158 to help with flooding issues. He said a meeting is scheduled with Mr. Spence, Fish & Wildlife, and a representative from Camden to discuss the issue further. Commissioner Winslow explained that NCDOT is getting ready to pave US 158 and Mr. Spence would like an emergency culvert/spillway installed to help relieve pressure from flooding in that area.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Meads reiterated his desire for an independent evaluation of spending in our school system.

Commissioner Dixon stated that the Special Project Committee will meet in the near future since Commissioner Jordan has been appointed to replace Mayor Parker and our new County Manager will be on board shortly.

Vice-Chairman Sterritt reported that he met with Attorney Hood Ellis regarding the proclamation recently adopted by the Board concerning waterfowl hunting on Sundays. He noted that he is very appreciative of the Board's efforts. Hyde, Camden, Pasquotank, and Currituck Counties have adopted proclamations. Perquimans County is in the process of doing the same. He said Attorney Hood feels very positive that hunting waterfowl on Sundays will not be passed. Commissioner Dixon said the issue has been turned over to an outside committee to study the economic impact and the stress it will present on the ducks. Vice-Chairman Sterritt attended the Hopeline Breakfast this morning. He encouraged fellow Board members to attend the event next year.

Chairman Perry asked if there was any further business to come before the Board in Regular Session. There being no further business, he asked for a motion that the Board enter Closed Session to preserve the attorney/client privilege and to prevent the disclosure of information that is not considered a public record.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Frankie Meads that the Board enter Closed Session to preserve the attorney/client privilege and to prevent the disclosure of information that is not considered a public record. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon the end of Closed Session;

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Joe Winslow that the Board return to Regular Session. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Perry asked if there was anything further to come before the Board. There being no further business, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Bill Sterritt to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD