

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
MARCH 6, 2017**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, March 6, 2017 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  
Bettie J. Parker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lloyd E. Griffin, III

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Rodney Bunch, County Manager  
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney  
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Perry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Commissioner Bettie Parker gave the invocation and Yvonne Williams, SGA President at River Road Middle School led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Ms. Williams thanked the Board for the opportunity to come before them. Chairman Perry welcomed everyone present and noted that it is great to have youth involved in Board meetings.

**1. COMMENTS FROM JOSEPH PERSIKO:**

Chairman Perry recognized Mr. Joseph Persiko of 406 W. Church Street. Mr. Persiko stated that he came tonight because he read an article in the *Daily Advance* regarding Currituck County banning solar farms and he heard talk that Pasquotank County may follow that lead. He said he represents an organization of 30-40 people who would hate to see Pasquotank County make the same decision as Currituck County. He said their reasoning was nonsense. He said he is a science teacher and he loves the way solar farms look. He stated that North Carolina is second in the country regarding solar farms and he would hate to see us go backwards. He noted that green energy is the future. Chairman Perry assured him that the Board will take his concerns into consideration when this issue is discussed.

**2. 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 the following item to the consent agenda: 1) Reappointment to Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority.

Motion was made by Bettie Parker, seconded by Jeff Dixon to amend the agenda as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. COMMENTS FROM BLAND BAKER, NORTHERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR, TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES:**

Mr. Baker thanked Commissioner Parker for her service and support on the Northern Regional Advisory Board. He introduced Dr. Denaurvo Robinson with the Albemarle Alliance for Children in Elizabeth City who also serves on their Advisory Board.

Mr. Bland said July 1, 2016 was the first year anniversary of their consolidation with East Carolina Behavioral Health and Coastal Care. He said their concern is the same as it always has been; providing the right service, in the right amount, at the right time for the individuals they serve. He said their major responsibility is managing behavioral health funds that serve the Medicaid population and also the indigent population. He said every year they do an annual gaps and needs assessment, which is required by the state. The results of the assessment are what drive their reinvestment plan. He said they are required by the state to put any savings they accumulate based on how they manage their funding back into the community. The plan is designed to improve care and quality of life for people with Mental Health Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse services.

Mr. Bland said some of the projects they are invested in include the Healing Place, the Oxford House, and accessible playgrounds. Whenever they invest services in to the community they try

to make sure that they are evidence based. Another program funded through their reimbursement program is an after school program and a summer camp program for children with developmental disabilities. There is also a plan to develop an adult program at the same facility in the future.

In 2015, 50,000 people were served in their twenty four counties, at a cost of roughly \$340 million. They manage a network of over 400 providers. Some of the services that are provided in Pasquotank County include: outpatient therapy, medication management, psychiatric services, substance abuse treatment, residential group homes, mental crisis management, innovation services, and multisystemic therapy. In 2015, 1,647 consumers were served in Pasquotank County, of which 1,442 had mental health struggles and 227 had substance abuse issues, totaling about \$10 million.

Mr. Bland explained that they manage two types of Medicaid. They have innovations waiver funding, state funding, county funding, and a fund balance. He said tonight he would like to talk about state funding. He explained that state funding pays for services that Medicaid does not pay for. He said the General Assembly cut their state funding in 2015-16 and it has been cut for the past two years.

The current formula the NCGA uses, which tags the reduction to cash balances as of June 30, 2015, is very unfair to Trillium. He said they cut a total of \$263 million across North Carolina. The General Assembly required them to use their savings to replace the money that was cut out of the budget. He noted that they were able to do that for the 2015 and they have done it for 2016, but their fund balance keeps going down. He explained that the formula that the General Assembly uses is based on Trillium's cash balance. In June 2015, Trillium had a good cash balance. The cut in 2015 was \$110 million and their percentage was 15%. In 2016, Trillium continued to use their cash balance that had been reserved for reinvestment projects. At that time, their cash balance was at 13% and they still had to pay 15% because they used the same formula. As their fund balance has gone down, the General Assembly has not adjusted the formula. As of October 2016, Trillium's cash balance was down to 11.61% of the statewide total, meaning their share of the 2016-17 reduction is actually \$5.3 million more this year than their "fair share."

Mr. Bland said over the past two fiscal years, the General Assembly has reduced the State funding for mental health, substance use disorder, and intellectual and other developmental disability services by \$263.7 million and required those reductions to be filled using LME/MCO savings.

Mr. Bland stated that Trillium historically received approximately \$41 million in state funding to be used for services. Some of this funding is a match to federal block grant funding and required to be used for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. Some of this funding is required to be paid for legacy programs. He said approximately \$20 million annually has historically been used to fund services that Medicaid does not cover. This includes over 200 people living in group homes and many others who receive support through day programs, supported employment, respite, developmental therapy, etc.

Mr. Bland said if this is not done many people may lose services and be dependent on families to care for them or end up in more costly levels of care like nursing homes, hospitals, or institutions. Two hundred thirty six people with Mental Illness and Developmental Disabilities are at risk of losing their placement in group homes and having to move to higher levels of care because family is often not able to take care of their complex needs. Two hundred fifty four children with IDD may receive no services of any kind, not even respite so the caregivers can recharge. Three hundred nineteen adults with IDD served by local day programs that have been part of the communities for over 25 years may end up closing and those adults with IDD will be stuck at home. Hundreds of jobs may be lost in every county. He added some people's health and safety may be endangered without the support or supervision that is needed. Mr. Bland said Trillium is advocating that the money be permanently restored to the budget for MSDDSA services. If the General Assembly doesn't restore the funding, they asked that they acknowledge the innovations in the communities made by Trillium reinvestment and the improvement in the overall quality of life for people and ask that the NCCG readjust the formula that is used to calculate what Trillium has to pay from savings since Trillium's savings has been impacted disproportionately in comparison to other LMEMCOs.

Mr. Bland asked the Board to work with NCACC requesting they advocate with the NCGA and reach out individually to the NCGA. He asked that the Board adopt a resolution to show their support for people with mental health, substance use and intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Commissioner Dixon asked if there is still talk regarding Sentara Albemarle Medical Center having a few beds available for mental health patients. Mr. Bland said he feels they will continue to have that conversation, but he does not know how far that conversation has gone.

Vice-Chairman Sterritt asked if funding for mental health continues to go down, what effect it will have on the culture of the community. Mr. Bland stated that he is not talking about Medicaid funding, but is talking about state funded money. He said if state funding continues to be cut and Trillium does not have the money to replenish the funding, people are going to go without services. He stated that there will be an increased number of people going to the emergency room, as well as in the jails.

Chairman Perry asked where an individual in the community would go to find help. Mr. Bland said there is a long list of services in Elizabeth City. He said an individual can call Trillium's call center to set up an appointment or get immediate help or they can go on Trillium's website. He said they are currently contacting county partners to ask about putting their website link on their websites. He asked if there are mental health services in our schools. Mr. Bland answered he believes Pasquotank County has a school based therapist in the system providing therapy. He noted that Trillium spent quite a bit of their reinvestment monies initially on Rachel's Challenge in middle and high schools across their 24 counties.

Commissioner Winslow asked if the facility in Greenville has been completed. Mr. Bland said he believes it will open in 2018.

County Manager Bunch informed Mr. Bland that we can work with our lobbyist on this issue.

Dr. Robinson thanked the Board for appointing him to the Trillium Board. He hopes that he has represented the citizens of Pasquotank County well by being the Chair of the Governance Board for the last two years.

#### **4. COMMENTS FROM DEAN MATTIX:**

Dean Mattix, District Vice President of the regional YMCAs, including the Albemarle Family YMCA updated the Board on how the YMCA is serving our community. He said currently there are 4,420 members (10-11% of our population). Every year there are approximately 151,000 visits. They serve an average of 414 people every day. About 1,000 campers go through the summer camp program every summer. Last year, they did 1,352 swim lessons. Every year they give out \$380,000 in scholarships to families or individuals who cannot afford the YMCA otherwise.

He provided stories of individual's lives that have been touched by the YMCA. He said the local YMCA has a program called All Kids Swim. Every year starting in November, kindergartners in the Elizabeth City Pasquotank County Schools come to the YMCA and get a full set of swim lessons free of charge.

#### **5. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH**

Chairman Perry asked Mr. William Kruse, Chairman of the Greater Albemarle Chapter of the American Red Cross and his wife Sue to accept a proclamation for American Red Cross Month. He read and presented the following proclamation to Mr. and Mrs. Kruse:

### **AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH 2017**

#### **A Proclamation**

In Pasquotank County, **we have a long history of helping our neighbors in need.** American Red Cross Month is a special time to recognize and thank our heroes – those Red Cross volunteers and donors who give of their time and resources to help community members.

These heroes help families find shelter after a home fire. They give blood to help trauma victims and cancer patients. They deliver comfort items to military members in the hospital. They use

their lifesaving skills to save someone from a heart attack, drowning or choking. They enable children around the globe to be vaccinated against measles and rubella.

The American Red Cross depends on 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. In fact, every eight minutes the organization responds to a community disaster, providing shelter, food, emotional support and other necessities to those affected. It collects nearly 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, I, Cecil Perry, Chairman of the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Pasquotank County and North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2017 as American Red Cross Month. I encourage all Americans to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord.

Mr. Kruse thanked the Board for their continuing support of the American Red Cross. He said January 2018 will be the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Red Cross and there will be some events scheduled over this year. As part of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Northeastern North Carolina Chapter has set a goal of adding 100 new volunteers to meet the needs to residents of Pasquotank County and the Northeastern North Carolina area, which is a nine county area.

#### **6. COMMENTS BY KEITH RIVERS:**

Chairman Perry recognized Mr. Keith Rivers, President of the Pasquotank County Branch of the NAACP. Mr. Rivers said he would like to express the organization's position on solar panels and charter schools. He stated that solar farms are much needed in our community from an economic standpoint. He said they create living wage jobs. He hopes that the Board will always keep that in mind. He said the NAACP stands in full support of the continuation of building solar farms in Pasquotank County.

Mr. Rivers said the NAACP's position is clear when it comes to the privatization of public education. He stated that they do not believe the Board of Commissioners should support any entity that takes money from our public education system and that is not governed by an elected body. He said tax dollars pay for charter schools and our tax dollars fund them. He said there are admission criteria and there are no traditional public schools in this county that has a stipulation on admission. He hopes that the Board will not write a letter of support for the charter school. He stated that budget time is upon us and we already have an underfunded public school system.

Commissioner Winslow asked the NAACP's position on wind turbines. Mr. Rivers said they feel the same way about wind turbines as they do about solar farms. Chairman Perry thanked him for coming and participating in the meeting.

#### **7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. *Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2017 Commissioner Meeting*

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

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

Tax Releases

		County	City
1.	Wayland Outlaw Spruill 2012	252.96	
2.	Wayland Outlaw Spruill 2013	257.04	
3.	Wayland Outlaw Spruill 2014	258.40	
4.	Wayland Outlaw Spruill 2015	258.40	
5.	Wayland Outlaw Spruill 2016	258.40	
6.	W L Onley Ice Cream	607.77	
7.	Elizabeth City Fire Dept.		191.12
8.	Odell S. Marsh		6,746.57
9.	John Wilson Spence	4442.32	
10.	Russell W. Lajoie Etal 2014	513.76	415.74
11.	Russell W. Lajoie Etal 2015	513.76	432.64
12.	Russell W. Lajoie Etal 2016	513.76	442.78
13.	J B Adams Jr.	288.00	36.00
14.	Harbour Asset Serving Inc.		302.61
15.	Harbour Asset Serving Inc.		558.72
16.	Retta Hooper Brock	555.78	

Tax Refunds

		County	City
1.	Erick Lee Shaw		139.60
2.	Tessa M. Stephan	260.30	

Solid Waste Fee Releases

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Walter Averill	P70-20	Vacant
2.	Rudolph & Eva Felton	P89-84	Vacant

c. *Approval of Budget Amendments*

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

Inspections

Decrease	010.4350.5500.00	Capital Outlay	26,535.00
Decrease	010.0700.4970.00	Loan Proceeds	26,535.00

Library

Increase	013.0550.4839.00	Miscellaneous Revenue	4,000.00
Increase	013.6110.5232.00	Library Material	4,000.00

Public Health

Decrease	010.6900.5991.00	Contingency	4,518.00
Increase	010.5110.5490.00	Grant Match-Adult Day Care	4,518.00

Emergency MGMT

Increase	010.0230.4433.02	Emergency Management Grant	40,000.00
Increase	010.4330.5600.00	Grant Funds	40,000.00

Sheriff/Fire

Decrease	010.4310.5500.00	Capital Outlay	38,000.00
Increase	010.4340.5500.00	Capital Outlay	38,000.00

Tax Admin

Increase	010.0600.4930.00	Insurance Proceeds	2,167.00
Increase	010.4140.5353.00	Maintenance-Vehicle	2,167.00

Sheriff

Decrease	010.6900.5991.00	Contingency	5,087.00
----------	------------------	-------------	----------

Increase	010.4310.5131.00	Separation Allowance	5,087.00
----------	------------------	----------------------	----------

*d. Approval of Cooperative Extension Center Use Policy*

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a policy which will allow the center to be rented by public service organizations, non-profits, civic organizations, churches and religious organizations, businesses, and private citizens when not in use by the Extension Center. Rental reservations are determined by availability with consideration going to departments within the building. A deposit of \$100 must be paid at the time of booking and the following fees will be charged:

Auditorium                   \$ 300.00/day  
\$ 100.00/hour minimum of 1 hour (during normal business hours) (If 4 or more hours you must pay for a full day)

½ Auditorium               \$ 150.00/day  
\$ 50.00/hour minimum of 1 hour (during normal business hours)

Kitchen                       \$ 150.00/day  
\$ 50.00/hour minimum of 1 hour (during normal business houses)

Conference Room         \$150.00/day  
\$ 50.00/hour minimum of 1 hour (during normal business hours)

Kitchen &                    \$400.00/day  
Auditorium                 \$100.00/hour minimum of 1 hour (during normal business hours) (If 4 or more hours you must pay for full day)

*e. Approval of Fee Schedule for Non-Friable Asbestos Material Bags*

The Finance Committee has recommended the following fees be established for bags that are available for purchase at the Pasquotank County Landfill Scale House for disposal of non-friable asbestos materials:

<u>Bag Size</u>	
Small	\$ 1.50
Medium	\$ 2.00
Large	\$ 3.25

*f. Approval of Lease Extension for Meads Pool*

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a revised lease agreement with The Alton E. Meads Recreation Center, Inc. for operation of Meads Pool. The lease is essentially the same as in the past.

*g. Adoption of Resolution Expressing Support for Providing Adequate Funding for Trillium*

Leza Wainwright, CEO, Trillium Health Resources has requested the Board adopt the attached resolution expressing Pasquotank County’s support for providing Trillium with adequate funding to continue servicing those with disabilities:

**Resolution of Support for Adequate Funding to meet the Mental Health, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Disorder service needs for Citizens of Pasquotank County**

**WHEREAS**, Pasquotank County knows that citizens dealing with mental illness and substance use disorders can achieve recovery with the appropriate services and supports and that citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live productive lives in our communities with similar services and supports; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding needed for such services and supports is increasing due to North Carolina’s increasing population and the opioid epidemic in our State; and

**WHEREAS**, Pasquotank County is a member of Trillium Health Resources, a twenty-four county LME/MCO serving eastern North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the intent of the NC General Assembly and the NC Department of Health and Human Services, the Board of Trillium Health Resources has developed and is implementing a robust reinvestment plan to use savings that is benefiting the citizens of Pasquotank County with such enhancements as accessible playgrounds, Access Point Kiosks, and new evidenced-based services; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina General Assembly has made significant budget reductions in State funding for the past two years; and

**WHEREAS**, the formula used to allocate the reduction statewide in the current fiscal year was based on 2015 information which has resulted in a disproportionate reduction to Trillium Health Resources; and

**WHEREAS**, these budget reductions can no longer be absorbed by Trillium Health Resources without jeopardizing services to Pasquotank County citizens, negatively impacting the lives of people in need of service as well as potentially impacting the local economy through job loss;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners do hereby request that the North Carolina General Assembly:

- Maintain full State funding for mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services without further reductions; and
- Allow Trillium Health Resources to continue to use its savings to reinvest in enhanced services in our communities rather than having to use that funding to replace State budget reductions; and
- Modify the formula by which any future reductions in funding are allocated, if such reductions must be made, to ensure the reduction is fairly distributed statewide.

**ADOPTED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017.**

*h. Approval of Recommendation from Appointment Committee*

Commissioner Parker presented the following recommendation from the Appointments Committee for appointment to boards and committees:

Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority – Reappoint J. Wilson Jones, Jr. to an additional five-year term, expiring 01-31-22.

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

**8. APPROVAL OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR EXPANSION OF NORTHEAST ACADEMY OF AEROSPACE AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES (NEAAT)**

Commissioner Dixon explained that the Northeast Academy Charter School has been looking for a new facility. He said they have basically outgrown their space at ECSU. He said they will remain a presence at ECSU. Fifty one tenth graders are attending ECSU as college students however there is the need for additional space. A building has become available in the Hockmeyer Hoffer Flow Industrial Park, which was previously occupied by T-Com. The charter school made an offer to T-Com and T-Com has accepted the offer. At this time, the charter school is securing a USDA loan to secure the building and do much needed improvements to the building to make it into a school. One of the recommendations from the USDA Rural Development Department is a letter of support from a local government entity. He asked the Board to respectfully approve writing a letter of support.

Vice Chairman Sterritt said his background is in education and the new charter school is futuristic for northeastern North Carolina. He thinks it is a wonderful asset to students in Pasquotank County. It has opened a lot of eyes about the possibility of more children benefitting from the experience of the charter school. He said it is true that some funding is lost to the public school system, but charter schools are a public school and nothing is lost in that regard. He acknowledged that some charter schools in North Carolina have not done a good job and have closed, but that will not happen in Pasquotank County, not with the experience of the

leaders at the charter school. He feels it is in the best interest of the Board and the citizens of Pasquotank County to support the effort by the charter school.

Commissioner Dixon pointed out 60 children that are attending the charter school were not in our public education system. He said they were either homeschooled or attended private schools. He said no money came from the state or the county for these children and now, we are receiving state money for those children. So far, over a million dollars has been sent from the state to the county that would not have come to the county.

Commissioner Meads asked how many students total are attending the school. Commissioner Dixon stated that the NEAAT School serves seven counties and there are only two or three regional schools in the state. He stated that currently the school houses 7<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> graders and is expanding next year with 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades. He said there are basically 60 children per grade. He said the majority of the middle school students will move to the new building and the high school students will remain on campus at ECSU. He stated that by the time they graduate, they will have a two-year associate degree under their belt, which will save their parents a tremendous amount of money.

Commissioner Winslow stated that he seeks quality in education anyway we can find it, whether in our public school system or at a charter school.

Commissioner Meads asked if this requires any financial support and Commissioner Dixon said it does not.

Commissioner Parker is concerned when money is taken from public schools. She said she is aware that the charter school is a good thing, because there are students there that are exceptional in many ways and they are able to progress faster, if by nothing else, by smaller class sizes. She said she is a retired public school teacher and she is aware that public schools have been lacking funds the entire time that she taught and the lottery funds have not come through as promised. She stated that because she is for educating students she will support a support letter at this time. She continues to be concerned about public schools being shortchanged in some way, but she will not shortchange students' education. She added, as long as there is diversity in the selection, she will support the letter.

Chairman Perry supports sending a letter so the school can progress, but he does not support the charter school concept. He wishes the same attention that is given to charter schools was given to public school, because it would make our public schools that much better. He is concerned about the selection process for the charter school, as well as the lack of socialization with other students.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Joe Winslow to send a letter of support for expansion of the NEAAT charter school. The motion carried unanimously.

**9. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH GET SOLUTIONS FOR SUBSURFACE EXPLORATION FOR POTENTIAL LANDFILL BORROW PIT:**

County Manager Bunch stated that the Solid Waste Committee has directed staff to investigate the possibility of purchasing a 72 acre tract adjacent to the landfill for future cover material and possible relocation of the recycling site to the front of the landfill. Pat McDowell has obtained a proposal from GET Solutions, Inc. in the amount \$9,470 to perform a total of ten individual 25-foot deep borings spaced throughout the tract. They will also perform laboratory tests on the soil samples and determine the suitability of the soils to be reused at the landfill. A full engineering report of the soil boring logs, observations, evaluations and recommendations will be provided. He said he has obtained written permission from the owner of the 72 acre parcel to perform the soil testing. He noted that funding is available in the current landfill budget to pay for the services.

Motion was made by Frankie Meads to table the request until after the next Solid Waste Committee Meeting.

Commissioner Meads said with the recent resignation of the Solid Waste Director he thinks maybe we need to look into other options rather than purchasing the 72 acres. He noted that he is new on the committee and he does not think it would hurt anything to table this until after the



next Solid Waste Landfill Committee meeting so it can be discussed further. He stated that other counties do not use the same system as Pasquotank County and he thinks we should look into that to see why they are doing things differently than we are. He said we may have to purchase the land, but he feels we need to investigate another source of handling our waste.

Commissioner Sterritt said he drives down Simpson Ditch Road a lot and noticed that the land in question is very low land, which could raise some questions. He asked if the people living nearby would like the 72 acres becoming landfill. Mr. Bunch stated that the land will not be made into a landfill. He said we will test the soils to see if it is suitable material to dig a pit and use the material to cover the landfill in the future when we are required to close it out. He said a buffer will be provided along the roadway.

Chairman Perry asked how much longer the landfill can operate. Mr. Bunch answered hopefully 20 more years.

Commissioner Sterritt said the idea of moving the operation from where it is towards the main road is a bad idea. Mr. Bunch said committee members have been looking at that and they want the opportunity to try to decide that. He stated that it will stop a lot of cars from going back to the landfill if they can get to the recycling center sooner.

Commissioner Winslow said it is his understanding that no matter what the landfill will need to be covered in the future. He said we need to analyze the dirt to see if it is suitable to be used to cover our landfill. He feels now is the time to look into it instead of waiting and having a very large bill to transport dirt in. Commissioner Meads said we may decide we do not want a landfill and there may be a less expensive way of doing it. Commissioner Winslow stated that we will need to find suitable soil somewhere and we have available soil adjacent to it, which will be cheaper. If it is not good soil, we will have to go to Plan B. Commissioner Meads said the landfill is covered as we go now. Mr. Bunch said when the landfill is closed it will be required to be covered again.

Vice Chairman Sterritt seconded the motion to table approval of the contract with GET Solutions for subsurface exploration for a potential landfill borrow pit.

Vice-Chairman Sterritt said he believes it is in the Board's best interest to get the Solid Waste Landfill Committee involved in this request. Chairman Perry informed him that this has already been discussed by the Solid Waste Landfill Committee and they are recommending the request.

After further discussion;

Chairman Perry called for the motion. The motion to table the request failed by a vote of 4 to 2, with Vice-Chairman Sterritt and Commission Meads voting against the motion.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Joe Winslow to approve the contract with GET Solution for subsurface exploration of the 72 acres for a potential landfill borrow pit in the amount of \$9,470. The motion passed by a vote of 4 to 2, with Vice-Chairman Sterritt and Commissioner Meads voting again the motion.

#### **10. REPORTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER:**

County Manager Rodney Bunch reported the following:

COA Interim President Briggs contacted me to inquire about storage space for multiple items they currently have stored in classrooms. He is proposing to construct a storage building at COA with bond revenues, but needs somewhere to move the items in the interim so they can make appropriate use of the classrooms. Sheriff Cartwright is coordinating with COA to identify space in the old ADJ structure.

Thursday, February 23 - Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Management hosted and facilitated a Civil Unrest Tabletop Exercise at the Pasquotank County Public Safety Building. Forty four participants from Pasquotank, Camden and Elizabeth City emergency response agencies and NC Department of Public Safety agencies, as well as local officials, participated in a facilitated, scenario-based group discussion. The purpose of the exercise was to provide participants an

opportunity to access their plans, preparedness, and capabilities for response to a civil unrest incident in Pasquotank or Camden County. It was designed to motive discussion focused on emergency responder coordination, critical decision-making, and the resources necessary to prepare for, respond to and recover from the event. The scenario stimulated constructive dialogue as participants examined and resolved problems presented in the setting of a local event which, though beginning as a peaceful protest, rapidly escalated into a riot situation. Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire, Emergency Management and local officials provided input on their capabilities and resources. Representatives from NC State Highway Patrol Mobile Field Force that responded to the Charlotte riots were present at the exercise and provided invaluable comments to the scenario questions based on first-hand experience. Major “take aways” from the exercise included the need for training for response to civil unrest incidents, the lack of proper protective equipment for personnel to respond safely to civil unrest incidents and the importance of prompt recognition of the potential for an escalating incident and the need to request additional resources early in an incident.

The installation of the new air handler for the Clerk of Court corridor is complete.

Mr. Bunch stated that he received an e-mail for Angela Cole, Assistant City Manager asking him to invite the Board to the unveiling of their entrance sign on the Camden Causeway on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM.

#### **11. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Parker received an e-mail from the Northern Regional Advisory Board Administrative Assistant for Trillium Health Resources, Jacqueline Waller on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> regarding Mental Health First Aid Training available in Bertie County. On Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, she attended a symposium on “Our Economic Future”. Tomorrow, March 7<sup>th</sup> she will attend an ECSU Community Forum. Next Tuesday, she plans to attend the Northern Regional Advisory Board meeting.

Vice-Chairman Sterritt attended the Hopeline Breakfast this morning. On Thursday, he will attend the Joint Recreational Advisory Board meeting. He stated that the Board contributes \$800,000 of tax money each year to support the recreation department, which is 55% of the budget. He reported that the request for a \$110,000 grant for the renovation of the trail behind COA will be submitted before the end of the month.

Chairman Perry contacted an individual in Wilmington regarding the dike in Newland. He is confident that they will look at the dike and offer us help. He spoke with Mr. Bunch about scheduling a retreat in the near future. He attended a school board meeting with Senator Cook and Representative Steinburg which discussed funding for public schools and teacher supplements. Additionally, he attended the JCPC meeting last week.

Motion was made by Frankie Meads, seconded by Jeff Dixon to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

---

CHAIRMAN

---

CLERK TO THE BOARD