

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 2, 2018**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, April 2, 2018 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Sparty Hammett, 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 Vice-Chairman Bill Sterritt. Chairman Perry welcomed everyone present.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Perry asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Finance Committee Chairman Bill Sterritt requested that the agenda be amended to add the following items recommended by the Finance Committee today to the Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of Pay Grade/Step for Waste Water Operator & Assistant Office Manager for the Water Department; 2) Approval of Pay Grade/Step for Payroll & Benefits Analysis; and 3) Approval to retain consultant to conduct assessment of water tap fees.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Charles Jordan to amend the agenda to add the three additional items recommended by the Finance Committee to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

2. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK:

Chairman Perry called on Tara Battle, Telecommunicator I, to receive the proclamation. He read and then presented the proclamation to Ms. Battle.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time that require sheriff, police, fire and/or emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, When an emergency occurs the prompt response of law enforcement, firefighters, and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

WHEREAS, professional telecommunicators are the single vital link for our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services by monitoring their activities by radio, providing them accurate up to date information and ensuring their safety; and

WHEREAS, professional telecommunicators are not as visible as the men and women who arrive at the scene of emergencies: and

WHEREAS, each telecommunicator has exhibited compassion, understanding, and professionalism during the performance of their job in the past year; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the week of April 8-14, 2018 as

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

In Pasquotank County in honor and recognition of our telecommunicators and the vital contributions they make to the safety and well-being of our citizens.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners on this 2nd day of April, 2018.

Ms. Battle thanked the Board.

3. COMMENTS BY PAUL O'NEAL:

Paul O'Neal, COA Board of Trustees Chairman, thanked the Board, staff, and citizens of Pasquotank County for their contribution to the college. He said he would like to especially thank Commissioner Winslow who serves on the Board as Pasquotank County's representative.

4. COMMENTS BY ROBERT WYNEGAR:

Robert Wynegar, COA President, updated the Board on where COA is now and where they plan to be in the near future. College wide curriculum headcount for fall 2017 and spring 2018 is up by 5% and full-time equivalent is up by about 3.5%. Statewide numbers are appearing to be down, so this is really good news for COA. He stated that they are serving more students and meeting their mission. COA's numbers on the main campus in Elizabeth City are also looking good so far this year. They are on track to have an annual headcount growth in their curriculum area. Fall and spring headcount is 2,772, compared to 2,822 for all of last year. Once all numbers are in, they should be well ahead of last year's numbers.

Dr. Wynegar noted that COA is offering two new programs. One is an Associate's Degree in Agribusiness, which they hope to have up and running in the fall semester. It is designed as a 2.2 program with North Carolina State University. They are also looking into an Associate's Degree in Emergency Medical Services. He provided an update on construction projects currently underway. He thanked the Board for their continued support.

5. COMMENTS BY H. V. COLE:

Mr. Cole voiced concerns with litter along roadsides in the County and damages it is causing our waterways. He said he does not know the answer to the problem, but he is willing to help in any way he can. It was noted that the federal prison is still on lock down and may have a lot to do with the problem. After Board discussion, staff was instructed to assess the issue.

Mr. Cole also asked if the County would allow him to take trash for senior citizens to the landfill without having to pay a fee. Commissioner Dixon informed Mr. Cole that Waste Industry contracts for countywide trash pickups for those individuals who are unable or wish not to use the convenience sites.

6. CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FIVE-COUNTY HARBOR TOWN FERRY PROJECT:

The Board reviewed a proposed resolution that would support a Golden Leaf Foundation grant application for funding \$7.5 million for development of the Five-County Harbor Town Ferry Project.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Bill Sterritt to adopt the following resolution supporting a Golden Leaf Foundation grant application for the Five-County Harbor Town Project.

The Board said they support the concept, but voiced concerns about future funding of the project and utilizing Golden Leaf Funds when there are other needs the funds could be utilized for in the County.

Commissioner Meads said the project should be funded privately, not with public funds. He feels there are not enough citizens in this area to support such a project.

After discussion,

The motion carried six to one, with Commissioner Meads voting against the motion.

RESOLUTION FOR PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NC

At a regular meeting of the Pasquotank County Board of Commissions on April 2, 2018, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissions, on a motion by _____, and seconded by _____ the following resolution was adopted by a vote of _____ to _____:

Whereas, A summary of the Albemarle Regional Tourism Development Strategy has been reviewed by members of the Pasquotank County Commission; and

Whereas, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners agrees to be included in an Albemarle Regional Tourism Development Strategy to be coordinated by the IBX Authority, a Private Non-Profit 501(3)C under the auspices of the UNC Kenan Flagler School of Business; and,

Whereas, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissions understands that four other Northeastern North Carolina cities and counties might also be included: Edenton, NC, in Chowan County; Plymouth, NC, in Washington County; Columbia, NC in Tyrrell County; and Hertford, NC in Perquimans County; and,

Whereas, the IBX authority shall apply for multiple grants to develop, coordinate, manage and implement the regional tourism strategy; and,

Whereas, The IBX Authority shall be governed by the IBX Authority Board of Directors; and

Whereas, All IBX Authority plans and budgets must be approved by the board of directors of IBX; and

Whereas, Pasquotank County and the City of Elizabeth City shall each appoint one member to the Board of Directors; and

Whereas, the Pasquotank County Board of Commission understands that it shall not be responsible for any funding to meet the expenses for the operations of the IBX Authority, but that the operating cost for the IBX Authority shall be a part of all grants which it will be responsible for preparing and submitting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners supports the Golden Leaf Foundation grant application for funding of \$7.5 million for development of the five aforementioned towns at \$1.5 million each, which includes a total of \$200,000 to be deducted from each town grant to sustain the operation of the IBX Authority for a period of 2 years.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of March 19, 2018 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:

Tax Releases

		County	City
1.	Quality Homes of Currituck LLC	198.66	
2.	North East Development LLC	503.58	

3.	Edwin L. Garcia	115.78	99.79
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Tax Refunds

		County	City
1.	John Demetrice Johnson	164.31	
2.	Curtis Lamont Wolfert	299.15	269.47

Solid Waste Fee Releases

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Justin Bowen	P117-6	Vacant

c. Adoption of Resolution Declaring the Opioid Crisis a Public Nuisance and Approval of Authority to Represent

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following resolution declaring the opioid crisis as a public nuisance and approved retaining Attorney Michael Jay Fuller, Jr. of the McHugh Fuller Law Group as lead counsel for filing a civil suit against those legally responsible for the wrongful distribution of prescription opiates and damages caused thereby.

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
DECLARING THE OPIOID CRISIS A PUBLIC NUISANCE**

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners has the authority to adopt resolutions with respect to county affairs of Pasquotank County, North Carolina, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 153A-121; and

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners has the authority to take action to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents and citizens of Pasquotank County; and

WHEREAS, there exists a serious public health and safety crisis involving opioid abuse, addiction, morbidity and mortality in Pasquotank County; and

WHEREAS, the diversion of legally produced controlled substances into the illicit market causes or contributes to the serious public health and safety crisis involving opioid abuse, addiction, morbidity and mortality in Pasquotank County; and

WHEREAS, the opioid crisis unreasonably interferes with rights common to the general public of Pasquotank County; involves a significant interference with the public health, safety, peace, comfort and convenience of citizens and residents of Pasquotank County; includes the delivery of controlled substances in violation of State and Federal law and regulations; and therefore constitutes a public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, the opioid crisis is having an extended and far reaching impact of the general public, health and safety, of residents and citizens of Pasquotank County and must be abated; and

WHEREAS, the violation of any laws of the State of North Carolina, or of the United States of America controlling the distribution of a controlled substance is inimical, harmful and adverse to the public welfare of the residents and citizens of Pasquotank County constitutes a public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners has the authority to abate, or cause to be abated, any public nuisance including those acts that unreasonably interfere with rights common to the general public of Pasquotank County and/or involve a significant interference with the public health, safety, peace, comfort and convenience of citizens and residents of Pasquotank County; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County has expended, is expending and will continue to expend in the future County funds to respond to the serious public health and safety crisis involving opioid abuse, addiction, morbidity and mortality within Pasquotank County; and

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners have received information that indicates that the manufacturers and wholesale distributors of controlled substances have distributed in areas surrounding Pasquotank County, North Carolina, may have violated Federal and/or State laws and regulations that were enacted to prevent the diversion of legally produced controlled substances into the illicit market.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners, assembled on this day at which a quorum is present, that based upon the above the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners are declaring the opioid crisis a public nuisance which must be abated for the benefit of Pasquotank County and its residents and citizens.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all resolutions that are inconsistent with this resolution are rescinded.

This the 2nd day of April, 2018.

d. Approval of Pay Grade/Step for Waste Water Operator & Assistant Office Manager for Water Department

The Finance Committee has recommended approval to hire a new Waste Water Operator at Grade 12, Step 3 - \$28,384. The candidate holds a CDL and has been employed in the waste water treatment business with local government for approximately one year.

The Finance Committee also recommended approval to hire an Assistant Office Manager at Grade 12, Step 8 - \$32,384. The candidate selected for the position has 12 years of experience.

e. Approval of Pay Grade/Step for Payroll & Benefits Analysis

The Finance Committee has recommended approval to hire a Payroll & Benefits Analysis at Grade 12, Step 8, \$32,087. The candidate has over sixteen years of experience closely related to the duties required for the HR Department.

f. Approval to Retain Consultant to Conduct Assessment of Water Tap Fees

In October 2017, a new law took effect in North Carolina, which called impact fees “system development fees” and provided authority to assess them. The law applies to all local government entities that own or operate water and/or wastewater supply, treatment, storage, or distribution facilities. The deadline to make the fees conform to the new law’s requirements is July 1, 2018. Staff determined that the Public Water and Sewer System Development Fee would apply to Pasquotank County’s tap fees and a consultant would need to be retained to conduct the assessment. The Finance Committee has recommended approval to retain a consultant to conduct an assessment of the County’s Water Tap Fees.

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

8. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION FOR THE MERGER OF HERTFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT WITH ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES:

The Board reviewed the proposed resolution.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Jeff Dixon to adopt the following resolution that allows Hertford County Health Department to merge with Albemarle Regional Health Services:

**RESOLUTION FOR THE MERGER OF HERTFORD COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT WITH ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES
WHICH INCLUDES THE COUNTIES OF PASQUOTANK, PERQUIMANS,
CAMDEN, CHOWAN, CURRITUCK, BERTIE, AND GATES**

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Health Department was established in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Camden County Health Departments joined together in 1942 to form a District Health Department; and

WHEREAS, in 1949 Chowan County Health Department joined the Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden Health Department to form the Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan District Health Department (PPCC); and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Currituck County Health Department joined PPCC to form Albemarle Regional Health Services; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Bertie County Health Department joined Albemarle Regional Health Services; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Gates County Health Department joined Albemarle Regional Health Services; and

WHEREAS, after due and diligent consideration, the Hertford County Board of Commissioners desire to take action to join Albemarle Regional Health Services, which will create the Albemarle Regional Health Services, consisting of Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie, Gates and Hertford Counties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners in session duly convened, by adoption of this resolution does hereby create Albemarle Regional Health Services consisting of Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie, Gates, and Hertford Counties.

ARTICLE I

The name shall be Albemarle Regional Health Services, which will include Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie, Gates and Hertford Counties.

ARTICLE II MISSION

The respective counties recognize that a unified purpose and direction of the public health system is necessary to ensure that all citizens in their jurisdictional areas have equal access to essential public health services. The Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie, Gates and Hertford County Boards of Commissioners declare that the mission of Albemarle Regional Health Services is to promote and contribute to the highest level of health possible for the people that they serve.

ARTICLE III DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH

The policy-making body of Albemarle Regional Health Services shall be a District Board of Health composed of 18 members in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 130A-37.

ARTICLE IV ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

The Albemarle Regional Health Services Board of Health agrees to adopt and assumes responsibility for the enforcement of any and all existing local health ordinances or rules, previously adopted as Albemarle Regional Health Services and any ordinances or rules

previously adopted by the Hertford County Board of Health that are not consistent there with.

ADOPTED, this the _____ day of _____ 2018.

9. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS:

County Manager Sparty Hammett distributed the following report:

School Safety – Radio Test – This is a follow-up to the discussion initiated by Commissioner Dixon at the March 19, 2018 Board of Commissioners meeting regarding communication problems in Camden County during a recent mass shooting training. On March 26, 2018, Central Communications worked with officers to walk through each school to check radio communications. No radio issues were identified in the two high schools, and there were only two halls in the other schools where the signal was dropped. We will do another follow-up to confirm these findings.

Commissioner Meetings – We will be contacting each Commissioner to schedule a meeting to discuss individual concerns, priorities, and goals. In addition, I would like to get feedback on the type of information you would like to see in a weekly report.

Special Projects Committee Meeting – We are in the process of scheduling a Special Projects Committee Meeting. I have reviewed all of the pending items and had preliminary discussions with County Attorney Cox.

Initial Assessment – Based on my first two weeks, Pasquotank County has strong staff in key positions and a solid framework in place. After receiving feedback and policy direction individually from Commissioners and the Board as a whole, I will start prioritizing opportunities for improvement.

Meeting with Michael Kelly, Risk Management Director, NCACC – I met with Mr. Kelly on March 23, 2018. He presented an overview of NCACC Risk Management Services. On a positive note, he indicated that the County's cost for insurance (Liability and Worker's Compensation) would be the same or lower for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

Sale of Surplus Items – The following items were recently sold on GovDeals.com:

Description	Buyer	Buyer's City & State	Sold Amount
1985 Chevrolet CD-30903	Douglas Morgan	Hampstead, NC	\$1,585.00
1981 Ford F700-Fire Truck	Donnie Jones	Camden, NC	599.00
1984 Ford F600G	Kevin Staples	Shiloh, NC	505.00
1990 Ford Club Wagon	Kevin Staples	Shiloh, NC	274.00
1984 Caterpillar Forklift	Audra Brown	Elizabeth City, NC	1,940.00
			\$4,903.00

Mr. Hammett stated that he will be contacting each Board member individually this week to schedule meetings to talk about individual concerns, priorities, and goals.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Winslow encouraged fellow Board members to attend the NCACC District Meeting being held in Pasquotank County on April 11. He attended meetings of the 911 and Public Safety Boards and reported that the Viper System is working very well.

Commissioner Meads stated that he would like to see each county vehicle equipped with a GPS. He also feels the County should install a timeclock system. Commissioner Dixon said he is all for installing County vehicles with GPS systems. Staff was instructed to look into the cost of installing the equipment. Commissioner Meads said he visited the senator's office last month to discuss surrounding counties paying their share of the cost for housing the District Attorney and Public Defenders offices. He was advised to have the Board present a Local Bill to the General Assembly which will require the Public Defender and the District Attorney offices to pay their share of the expenses for office space.

Commissioner Jordan attended the Sentara Albemarle Medical Center Wound Care Center grand opening. He also attended a meeting of the Elizabeth City Pasquotank School Board of Education to discuss the ¼ percent sales tax referendum. He reported that the bookmobile delivery has been delayed due to parts for the customization. The bookmobile should be ready by May. Additionally, he attended a forum at ECSU regarding activities for students in the community. Additionally, he attended a march against gun violence following the Green Saves Green event.

Commissioner Griffin attended the Airport Authority meeting.

Vice-Chairman Sterritt attended the DSS Board meeting, Economic Development Commission meeting, Green Saves Green event, and the JCPC meeting. He invited Board members to attend the dedication ceremony for the new skate park on Friday, as well as the Links, Inc. program on Saturday.

Chairman Perry encouraged the Board to attend the NCACC District meeting on April 11th. He will provide a welcome at the event. He attended the Green Saves Green event, as well as the JCPC meeting.

There being no further business;

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Joe Winslow to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD