

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 1, 2015**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, June 1, 2015 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Joe Winslow. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Commissioner Bill Sterritt led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Commissioner Sterritt referred to the recent Coast Guard City Celebration during which Elizabeth City was designated as a Coast Guard City. He noted that the Coast Guard Base is in the county and that is where it all started. Chairman Winslow recognized special guests and welcomed everyone present.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Winslow asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin requested to add the Appointments Committee's recommendations to the agenda under New Business. Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry requested that the following recommendations from the Finance Committee be added to the consent agenda: 1) Solid Waste fee release for Ronald & Mary Morris; 2) Budget amendment; 3) Approval of request from COA to re-designate \$25,000 in current budget for electrical repairs and move them forward to the 2015-16 fiscal year to pay a portion of the cost to repair the parking lots at COA; and 4) Approval of request from the schools to transfer \$275,000 from capital outlay to current expense in order to maintain low-wealth funding.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Bettie Parker to approve the amendments to the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2. COMMENTS FROM SUE MATOUSEK:

Chairman Winslow recognized Sue Matousek to address the Board. Ms. Matousek complained about being mistreated and about being banned from Pasquotank County facilities.

3. COMMENTS FROM RANDY KEATON:

Chairman Winslow recognized Randy Keaton who said he is here tonight as a parent and a volunteer of the school system. He stated that he has a child in the school system and has seen a lot and has talked to many teachers and administrators. He said he would like to discuss the proposed budget for the school system, specifically the current expense budget. He provided a spreadsheet that he had prepared showing the current expense funding and the capital outlay funding for the schools for each year back to the 2008-2009 fiscal year when the county was forced to cut a lot of budgets mid-year due to the downturn in the economy. He said the current expense amount of \$9,250,000 proposed for 2015-2016 is the new low point for current expense. Mr. Keaton stated that he would like to thank the Board for the capital outlay funding that has been provided to the schools. He said there have been a lot of roof projects completed and the students are looking forward to the new air conditioning planned for the Northeastern High School gym. He added that the air conditioning project is much needed and is very much appreciated. He explained that the school system has its challenges and its needs, and while funding does not guarantee success, such a large cut in current expense funding does not do any

good for the school budget. He said the school system has a lot of needs and he would like to ask the Board to go back and look at the school budget as it considers the budget that is being presented tonight. He noted that in addition to this cut, he understands there will be about a \$120,000 cut in the school budget based on the amount that will be going to the new charter school, at \$1,600 per student, plus the reduction in state funding for those students. Mr. Keaton stated that a lot of good things are being done by the volunteers in the school system because of churches and businesses that have adopted schools. He said they provide a lot of volunteer hours. They have purchased things, they have painted and cleaned up, and this past year a group of parents and volunteers built a new press box and concession stand at the Pasquotank High School softball field at no cost to the school system. The Northeastern High School Boosters Club has raised and spent \$50,000 over the last three years on new equipment, uniforms and facilities at NHS. Mr. Keaton advised that there are a lot of things being done on a private level and he thinks it would be disheartening to the volunteers and parents to see this large of a cut in the school budget. He added that he understands the challenges, probably more than most citizens of the county, and agrees that the salary increases this year are long overdue and well-deserved, and he is only asking that the rest of the budget be funded by other methods and not by reducing the school budget. He suggested if a tax increase is necessary that all of the budgets compete for the dollars and that the schools be equally scrutinized and fairly funded.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of May 18 & May 26, 2015 Commissioner Meetings

b. Approval of Solid Waste Fee Releases

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

Solid Waste Releases:

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 1. | Ronald & Mary M. Morris | 39-C-9 | Vacant since 2005 |
|----|-------------------------|--------|-------------------|

c. Approval of Budget Amendment

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

Loan Proceeds

| | | | |
|----------|------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Decrease | 010.5910.5636.00 | ECPPS-Capital Outlay | 27,953.00 |
| Increase | 010.0600.4980.00 | Jail-Perquimans/Camden | 21,524.00 |
| Increase | 010.0150.4231.00 | Sales Tax-1% | 95,523.00 |
| Decrease | 010.0700.4970.00 | Loan Proceeds | 145,000.00 |

d. Approval of Request from COA to Re-designate \$25,000 for Electrical Repairs and Move Forward to the 2015-16 Fiscal Year

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a request from College of The Albemarle to re-designate \$25,000 that had been appropriated in the current budget for electrical repairs and move it forward to the 2015-16 fiscal year to pay a portion of the estimated \$46,000 cost to repair parking lots.

e. Approval of Transfer of \$275,000 from School Capital Outlay to Current Expense

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a request from the Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Public Schools to transfer \$275,000 from capital outlay to current expense in order to maintain the school system's low-wealth funding. The following budget amendment is needed to transfer the funds:

Schools

| | | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Decrease | 010.5910.5636.00 | ECPPS-Capital Outlay | 275,000.00 |
| Increase | 010.5910.5630.00 | ECPPS-Current Expense | 275,000.00 |

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion carried.

5. ADOPTION OF PROCLAMATION FOR ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH:

The Albemarle Commission Area Agency on Aging has requested that the Board proclaim May 8 through June 22 as Elder Abuse Awareness Month. The Board has been requested to adopt the

following proclamation which will be read during the opening ceremony for the annual awareness walk that will begin at the Courthouse on June 15 at 10:00 AM.

**PROCLAMATION
VULNERABLE ADULT AND ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH
IN THE COUNTY OF PASQUOTANK, MAY 8 - JUNE 22, 2015**

WHEREAS, each year, more than two million vulnerable and older adults are victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and research has shown that older adults who are abused, neglected and exploited are three times more likely to die within ten years than those who are not; and

WHEREAS, according to national statistics, elder abuse is grossly under reported because vulnerable and older adults who are being abused find it very difficult to tell anyone due to shame and fear; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 there were almost 23,000 reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable and older adults made to North Carolina's 100 county departments of social services not only by doctors and other professionals but by family members and concerned citizens in our communities; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County's vulnerable and older adults of all social, economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds may be targets of abuse, neglect or exploitation, which can occur in families, long-term care settings and communities; and

WHEREAS, protecting Pasquotank County's vulnerable and older adults is a community responsibility and all citizens are charged under North Carolina General Statute (GS 108A-102) to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation to the Pasquotank County Department of Social Services; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina enacted the nation's first elder abuse law in 1973; and

WHEREAS, May 8, 2015 through June 22, 2015 is Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse Awareness Month in North Carolina and this time frame ties the awareness period to both the Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day holidays, in the hopes of reinforcing the spirit of respecting and valuing, not just parents, but all elders; and

WHEREAS, we all have a responsibility to support the safety, welfare, and dignity of Pasquotank County's vulnerable and older adults;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims May 8-June 22, 2015 as "**ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**" in the County of Pasquotank, and commends its observance to all citizens, asking them to wear purple Elder Abuse Awareness ribbons; and we further do hereby proclaim June 15, 2015 as "**WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY**"; and urge all citizens to work together to help protect elder adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation because it is imperative that we refuse to tolerate the indignity of Elder Abuse.

This the 1st day of June, 2015.

Motion was made by Frankie Meads, seconded by Cecil Perry to adopt the proclamation for Elder Abuse Awareness Month as proposed. The motion carried unanimously.

6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO GLOBALLY ADDRESS COASTAL ISSUES:

The Board reviewed a letter from the Town of Sunset Beach requesting that the Board adopt a resolution supporting the creation of a federal task force to help address activities being proposed for coastal areas. The primary objective of the task force would be the preservation, stability and safety of the ocean.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Bettie Parker to adopt the proposed resolution.

Lengthy discussion followed and Chairman Winslow stated that this would be a federal task force that would be implemented and he does not feel that more federal influence is needed in the eastern part of North Carolina. He said he could see it at the local or state level, but he believes the federal government should stay out of it.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin stated that there will be more pushbacks from the federal government regarding global warming and sea level rise, and if a federal task force is created it might give the residents of North Carolina a voice. He added that the task force will be created whether or not Pasquotank County is in favor of it.

Commissioner Frankie Meads stated that he believes the Board needs to know more about what this task force intends to do and what the effect would be on the coast of North Carolina.

Commissioner Bettie Parker stated that she seconded Commissioner Griffin's motion because she was looking at the primary objective of preservation, stability and safety of the ocean.

Commissioner Griffin said he would concede to Commissioners Meads and he withdrew his previous motion and Commissioner Parker withdrew her second to the motion.

Motion was made by Frankie Meads, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to table the *Resolution for the Establishment of a National Task Force to Globally Address Coastal Issues* pending more information. The motion carried by a six to one margin with Commissioner Sterritt voting against the motion.

7. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GOVERNOR PAT McCRORY'S CONNECT NC BOND PROPOSALS:

The Board considered a proposed resolution supporting Governor Pat McCrory's Connect NC \$2.85 billion bond initiative. The bonds would be used to build roads, upgrade technology, construct and improve educational facilities, enhance medical services, support military installations, improve parks and recreational facilities, and build and improve port and rail infrastructure. No tax increase would be required to fund the bonds and the state's AAA bond rating will be preserved. The resolution would also encourage the General Assembly to allow the citizens of North Carolina to vote on the bond proposal.

Commissioner Meads asked who would be responsible for paying for the counties to hold this referendum. Chairman Winslow said he understands that the state will reimburse the counties.

County Manager Rodney Bunch noted that he does not know whether the referendum would have to pass in order for the state to provide reimbursement.

Chairman Winslow stated that the potential revenue to Pasquotank County for COA and other projects far outweighs the cost of holding an election. He said a tax increase would not be needed to fund the bonds.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Jeff Dixon to adopt the proposed resolution supporting the Governor's Connect NC Bond Proposals.

Discussion followed and Commissioner Sterritt stated that there are two issues here: one for the Pasquotank County Commissioners to support the Governor's initiative, and one to allow North Carolina citizens to vote on this bond issue. He said he would vote in favor of allowing the citizens to vote on the bond issue, but he will not vote in favor of supporting the Governor's request because this is a lot of money. He stated if this goes forward the state might financially be in big trouble. He added that he cannot vote for the motion as stated.

Commissioner Meads added that the state has just paid off \$2.5 billion in unemployment taxes which will save money for the taxpayers, the cities and counties, and the colleges and universities. He said the state budget is now in fairly good shape and he believes there will be funds available for roads, schools, and colleges without having to go in debt for \$2.85 billion. He said he would oppose allowing the state to go into debt \$2.85 billion at this point in time.

Commissioner Griffin said this could end up like the Highway Trust Fund or the Lottery Fund which the state uses to support the state budget.

Vice-Chairman Perry stated that this initiative could provide the funds needed to construct an interstate highway system to connect Raleigh with Hampton Roads which has been discussed for some time now. He said he would support the Governor's initiative to try to improve this area.

Chairman Winslow said his only question would be how much support there would be for this area from the bond proceeds. He added if we do nothing, we get nothing. He stated that this would be an investment in long term capital projects. It was noted that under the initiative as proposed College of The Albemarle would receive approximately \$3.2 million.

Commissioner Bettie Parker stated that she is concerned that it has been indicated that no tax increase would be required and that the state's Triple A bond rating would be preserved. She said she does not know how a statement like that could be made without anything to really back it up as to why. She stated however that she is concerned about the roads, the educational facilities, medical facilities, and the support of military installations and she believes that the county's support of this initiative would be merited.

Mr. Bunch pointed out that the resolution is all about allowing the citizens to vote on the bond proposal.

The motion to adopt the following resolution carried by a six to one margin with Commissioner Sterritt voting against the motion.

A Resolution of the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners in Support of North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory's Connect NC Bond Proposals

WHEREAS, Governor Pat McCrory has proposed a \$2.85 billion bond initiative intended to connect North Carolina cities and towns in the 21st century by building roads, upgrading technology, constructing and improving educational facilities, enhancing medical services, supporting our military installations, improving parks and recreational facilities, and building and improving port and rail infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, these strategic investments, as proposed, are designed to benefit every community across this great State and will create jobs and improve the quality of life and environment for every North Carolinian; and

WHEREAS, because of North Carolina's fiscal strength and strong balance sheet, no tax increase will be required to fund these bonds, and in addition, the State's Triple A bond rating will be preserved; and

WHEREAS, by not addressing our serious infrastructure deficiencies now, our State will lose its ability to compete in the future, interest rates will go up, costs to taxpayers will increase, congestion will worsen and jobs will not expand at the rate needed to sustain a healthy and vibrant North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of North Carolina must be allowed to make the important decision of investing in the opportunities provided to our future generations through the Connect NC bond initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners supports Governor McCrory's Connect NC bond initiative and encourages the General Assembly to allow North Carolina's citizens to vote on this critical bond proposal to ensure North Carolina's future on the global stage.

ADOPTED this the 1st day of June, 2015.

8. DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

The Board considered the designation of a voting delegate for the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference which will be held in Charlotte on July 10-13. After

discussion regarding which members will be available to attend the conference, Vice-Chairman Perry nominated Chairman Winslow as the county's voting delegate;

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Bettie Parker to designate Chairman Joe Winslow as delegate and Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry as alternate delegate for the NACo Annual Conference. The motion carried unanimously.

9. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2015-16 COUNTY BUDGET:
County Manager Rodney Bunch provided each Commissioner with a copy of the county's proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-16. He read the budget message and explained that the proposed budget includes filling a vacant Emergency Management Assistant position in January, 2016 and includes combining two Emergency Medical Services part-time office assistant positions into one full-time position.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Jeff Dixon to call for a public hearing on the proposed county budget for fiscal year 2015-16 at the June 15, 2015 Commissioner meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE:
Commissioner Lloyd Griffin reported that the Appointments Committee met today and has made the following recommendations:

- a) Elizabeth City Board of Adjustment - Nominate Rwanda Farrer to fill a vacancy. Since this is a new appointment, it must lay over until the next meeting.
- b) Animal Control Board - Nominate William Jernigan to replace Gary White. This must also lay over until the next meeting.
- c) Aging Advisory Council - Nominate David Boone to replace Sue Norton. This must lay over until the next meeting.
- d) Tourism Development Authority - Reappoint Jeff Dixon, Jean Baker, Georgene Falcon, and Arthur McPherson. Since these are reappointments, they can be finalized tonight.
- e) COA Board of Trustees - Reappoint Don McCabe to an additional term. This can be finalized tonight.
- f) Northern Regional Advisory Board for ECBH - Appoint Bettie Parker and Dr. Denauvo Robinson. These appointments can be made tonight since they meet the criteria for exemption from the county's appointments policy.
- g) East Albemarle Regional Library Board - Appoint Rowena Roby. This appointment can be made tonight since Ms. Roby is already a member of the Pasquotank County Library Board as required.
- h) Airport Authority - Reappoint Lloyd Griffin and Dr. Johnny Houston to additional terms. Can be done tonight since reappointment.
- i) Jury Commission - Reappoint Lee T. Jones to an additional term. Can be done tonight.
- j) Planning Board - Reappoint Vick Roach and Kevin Brickhouse to additional terms. Can be done tonight.
- k) Senior Citizens Advisory Committee - Reappoint James Robertson and Betty Eason to additional terms. Can be done tonight.
- l) Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority - Reappoint Bill Durham and Ralph Jones to additional terms. Can be done tonight.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry seconded by Jeff Dixon to accept the recommendations from the Appointments Committee to approve the reappointments as presented, with the new appointments, items a-c, to lay over until the next meeting to provide Board members an opportunity to review their applications. The motion carried unanimously.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner William Sterritt reported that the Social Services Board met today and Myrtle Rivers, who is the current Chair, has completed her second term on the Board and will be going off the Board. He said the Social Services Board is authorized to select her replacement and today elected Dr. Andrea Williams to the Board. She will take office on July 6.

Commissioner Jeff Dixon stated that he forwarded to the Board an update from the Highway 17 Association and he hopes everyone has had an opportunity to read it. He said it is interesting to note that our region will receive STIP funds to help improve an 8.5 mile stretch of the future I-44 outside of Bertie and Chowan Counties. He stated that there is now movement regarding the interstate, and the least expensive portions of the highway will be completed first. He added that the major costs of the interstate will include the flyover in Hertford and the flyover in Williamston.

Commissioner Bettie Parker reported that she attended the reception at Arts of the Albemarle for Elizabeth City becoming a Coast Guard City and thought it was very interesting to hear all of the positive comments about the Coast Guard being in the city and the county. She added that she is very pleased that Elizabeth City has been designated as a Coast Guard City.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin said during the Coast Guard City celebration last week many individuals were recognized and thanked for their involvement in this process. He noted that there were also a lot of citizens and volunteers whose efforts made this happen.

Commissioner William Sterritt stated that he would like to applaud Chairman Winslow for the talk he gave at the Coast Guard City celebration. He said the historical facts Chairman Winslow presented were very important.

Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry reported that the Health Board met last week and discussed Albemarle Hospice and Albemarle Home Care and the proposal to sell them to another agency. He said no decision has been made at this time. Vice-Chairman Perry stated that he will be going to Raleigh tomorrow for a meeting of the NCAACC Education Steering Committee.

Chairman Winslow reported that he participated in the celebrations naming Elizabeth City a Coast Guard City and thoroughly enjoyed doing that. He said the people of Pasquotank County had a vision in 1938, when coming out of The Great Depression, to have a bond referendum for \$30,200 which seemed like millions of dollars at that time. Pasquotank County borrowed the money to purchase the property and gave the property back to the federal government. He explained that the first thing the federal government did was to put \$200 million in investments in that property and billions of dollars since. He said this all started with a vision.

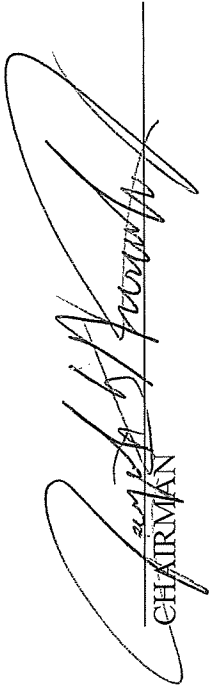
Commissioner Frankie Meads noted that there are only a few veterans of World War II remaining in Pasquotank County and he thinks it would good for the county to do something to recognize them because their time is probably running short.

12. COMMENTS FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY:

County Attorney Mike Cox stated that he also attended the Coast Guard City Celebration and was very impressed with the drill team. He said for him this was the highlight of the event.

Chairman Winslow thanked those who attended tonight's meeting and asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being no further business, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Frankie Meads to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.


FRANKIE MEADS
CHAIRMAN


KAREN JONES
CLERK TO THE BOARD