

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**JUNE 2, 2014**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, June 2, 2014 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Rodney Bunch, County Manager  
Sheri Small, Finance Officer  
Karen Jennings, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Jeff Dixon. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Joe Winslow led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Dixon welcomed everyone present.

**1. COMMENTS FROM GEORGE HAGUE:**

Chairman Dixon called on Mr. George Hague to address the Board. Mr. Hague said he hopes everyone read the editorial in Sunday's newspaper regarding ECSU. He stated that ECSU is a valuable asset, not only to the county from an economic standpoint, but also from an educational standpoint. He said his daughter could have gone to any college in the state, but she chose ECSU so she could stay in Elizabeth City. He stated that some years ago Representative Bill Owens wanted to change the name of ECSU to UNC at Elizabeth City because he felt it would allow ECSU to become a more integral part of the UNC system. He said a lot of people still feel that way today. He stated that the issue of studying the possible closure of ECSU may not go away. Mr. Hague said it is fortunate the area has a Republican Senator who blocked the legislation this time. He asked the Board of Commissioners to use its influence with the ECSU family to put forth new ideas to make ECSU a more valuable part of the university system.

Chairman Dixon explained that the Board was going to consider a resolution tonight opposing any study of the closure of ECSU. He said in view of the Senate's action to remove the proposal from the legislation, the resolution will be revised and considered at a later date.

**2. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH:**

Chairman Dixon called on Mr. Charles Jordan to receive a proclamation declaring May 9 through June 16 as Elder Abuse Awareness Month. He read and then presented to Mr. Jordan the following proclamation:

**A PROCLAMATION - ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**  
**MAY 9 - JUNE 16, 2014**

**WHEREAS**, each year, more than two million vulnerable and older adults are victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation, and national and international research reveals 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 difficult to tell anyone due to shame and fear; 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**, North Carolina enacted the nation's first elder abuse law in 1973; 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 Health and Human Services; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2013 there were more than 21,000 reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation 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**, by 2025, 86 of North Carolina's counties are projected to have more people age 60 and over than age 17 and younger, and 1 in 4 North Carolinians will be age 60 and over; and

**WHEREAS**, Mother's Day and Father's Day are national holidays intended to honor, respect and promote the dignity and well-being of our parents and grandparents;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners, does hereby proclaim May 9 - June 16, 2014, including Mother's Day and Father's Day, as "ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH" in Pasquotank County, and commends this observance to all citizens, asking them to wear purple Elder Abuse Awareness ribbons, and further proclaims June 15, 2014, "NATIONAL ELDER ABUSE DAY" in Pasquotank County; and

We further ask all citizens to work together to help protect adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation. It is imperative that we refuse to tolerate the indignity of Elder Abuse.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have set my hand and seal this second day of June, 2014.

Mr. Jordan thanked the Board for the proclamation and invited everyone to attend the Elder Abuse Awareness Walk on Friday, June 6 beginning at 10:00 AM and an Elder Abuse Conference that will be held on Wednesday, June 11. He stated that we need to make sure that our elderly are taken care of properly and that they are not taken advantage of.

**3. COMMENTS FROM EARL ROUNTREE:**

Chairman Dixon recognized Mr. Earl Rountree who said he has been to a meeting of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners to discuss office space for the Public Defender and District Attorney. He said he talked to the County Manager today and asked him if he had received any response to the letter that he sent to the counties of Gates, Chowan and Currituck requesting they reconsider paying their share for office space for the Public Defender and District Attorney. He said apparently there has not been any progress. He stated that everybody needs to be onboard and his observation was that he has gotten nowhere. Mr. Rountree suggested that legislation might help solve the problem. He asked who would be responsible for furnishing the office space if Pasquotank County did not do it.

**4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

Chairman Dixon asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Vice-Chairman Joe Winslow requested that the agenda be amended to add a recommendation from the Finance Committee to establish a fee schedule for solar power/farm building permits.

Motion was made by Joe Winslow, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to add to the consent agenda the recommended fee schedule for solar power/farm building permits. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. APPOINTMENTS TO SENIOR TARHEEL LEGISLATURE:**

The Board considered the appointment of a delegate and alternate to the Senior Tarheel Legislature. The Appointments Committee recommended at the last meeting that David Boone be appointed as delegate and that James Robertson be appointed as alternate. Chairman Dixon asked if there were any further nominations. There being none;

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Joe Winslow to appoint David Boone as the delegate to the Senior Tarheel Legislature and James Robertson as the alternate. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes of May 14, May 19 and May 23, 2014 Commissioner Meetings

- b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds  
The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax releases and refunds:

Releases:		County	City
1.	Michael Weatherly	720.00	

Refunds:

1.	Aimee Ann Trotman	102.26	
2.	Aimee Ann Trotman	109.79	
3.	Dominion Resource Services	155.67	127.31
4.	Holly Woodruff Long	146.47	

- c. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

County Attorney			
Increase	010.0110.4112.13	MV Taxes '13	248,880.00
Decrease	010.6900.5991.00	Contingency	2,920.00
Increase	010.4150.5192.00	Legal Fees	251,800.00

Jury Commission

Decrease	010.6900.5991.00	Contingency	162.00
Increase	010.4165.5121.00	Salaries & Wages	150.00
Increase	010.4165.5181.00	FICA	12.00

Register of Deeds

Increase	010.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	4,475.00
Increase	010.0180.4240.00	Documentary Stamps	12,400.00
Increase	010.4180.5800.00	Automation/Preservation	16,875.00

DSS

Increase	011.0550.4839.00	Miscellaneous Income	116.00
Increase	011.0240.4548.00	Crisis Intervention	8,312.00
Increase	011.5400.5686.00	Aid to the Blind	116.00
Increase	011.5400.5688.00	Crisis Intervention	8,312.00

- d. Approval of Solar Power/Farm Building Permit Fee Schedule

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve the following fee schedule for solar power/farm building permits:

Per Site/Application	\$5 each
First 500 Panels	\$1 each
Over 500 Panels	

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

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

Releases:		County	City
1.	Randall James Langley	86.55	
2.	Nicole Gibbs Cauley	39.96	
3.	Shelia Johnson	16.80	13.41
4.	Edward Roscoe Elliott	33.05	26.38
5.	Tarja Susan Brandow	37.57	
6.	Brian Oneal Thompson	94.55	
7.	Tracy Lewis	17.92	18.44
8.	Tracy Lewis	16.00	17.77
9.	America Gallop	3.09	2.43
10.	Janice Akbar Holley	9.11	7.28
11.	Matthew Alexander Koch	31.87	30.44

12.	Michelle Scott Godfrey	85.10	
13.	Doris Annette Rivera	70.43	56.23
14.	Jason Allen Risser	83.14	
15.	Michelle Elizabeth Williams	12.83	10.25
16.	Scott Alexander Hergott	8.00	
17.	Daniel Walter Wood	13.27	
18.	Heather Michelle Molnar	87.48	
19.	Michael Erwin Molnar	74.34	
20.	Stephen Gabriel Williams	7.71	6.14
21.	Tyler David Fabian	15.60	
22.	Rebecca White Winslow	23.75	18.66
23.	Ross Oneil Sampson	35.28	27.72
24.	Norma Davida Shabazz	25.20	
25.	Marcus Goodman	1.80	1.44
26.	Buckley Hays McKay	64.60	
27.	Stanley Eric Walston	31.50	
28.	Jerry Lamar Owens, Jr.	79.24	64.43
29.	Tiffany Renae Claiborne	51.89	46.43
30.	Ichael D. Garza	77.56	
31.	Thomas Dean Sinner, Jr.	89.59	
32.	Eugenia Anitra Reid	2.42	1.93
33.	Richard Frederic Morris	45.57	36.38
34.	Michelle Lynn Norman	6.39	
35.	Shannon Lee Payne	15.38	
36.	Deborah Moore Staten	4.03	3.22
37.	Vernon Douglas Bray, Jr.	1.51	
38.	Vera Muse Harrell	48.95	
39.	Billy Williams	8.99	7.18
40.	Joseph Marcus Gay, Jr.	29.11	
41.	Lauren Elizabeth Sewell	5.17	
42.	Glenn Speight Equipment Repair	21.33	22.03
43.	Eustace Augusta Christiani	9.83	
44.	David Arthur Bradbury	7.01	

**7. APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO RETIRE DUTY WEAPONS AND BADGES FOR RETIRED SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES:**

The Board considered a request from Sheriff Randy Cartwright to retire the duty weapons and badges and award them to officers Furman Bradley and W.O. Leary who have retired from the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department has a policy that allows sworn law enforcement officers who retire to receive their badges at no cost and to receive their service side arms at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners according to a price schedule based on their years of service. Officer Bradley retired with 17 years of service and Officer Leary retired with 18 years of service. According to the schedule, retiring officers with 10 to 20 years of service would pay \$50 for their duty weapons. Sheriff Cartwright has advised that he has collected the \$50 for each weapon.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Gary White to approve retiring the duty weapons and badges and awarding them to Furman Bradley and W.O. Leary according to the Sheriff's Department's policy and fee schedule. The motion carried unanimously.

**8. UPDATE FROM AIRPORT MANAGER:**

Commissioner Griffin requested that the agenda be amended to include an update from the Airport Manager.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Joe Winslow to amend the agenda to hear an update from Airport Manager Dion Viventi. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dixon called on Mr. Viventi to give his report. Mr. Viventi reported that several command changes are taking place at the Coast Guard Base. He advised that he recently volunteered to be Chairman of the ECSU Aviation Advisory Board and they had their first meeting last month. He reported that there is quite a bit of deteriorating infrastructure involving the ramp and apron at the airport which is being addressed. The repairs will be paid for with a

100% state grant. Mr. Viventi said the First Flight Festival has been tentatively scheduled for November 1. He stated that there has been good participation from the armed services in the new military fueling contract. He said fuel sales reached a record last month with a 200% increase over the same month last year. He stated that the new airport budget will be based on fuel sales over the entire year.

The Board thanked Mr. Viventi for his update.

**9. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED FY 2014-15 COUNTY BUDGET:**

Chairman Dixon asked County Manager Rodney Bunch to present the county's proposed budget for FY 2014-15. Mr. Bunch read the budget message indicating an ad valorem tax rate of 76¢ per \$100 valuation. He reviewed budget graphs showing the sources of revenue and how it is spent. Mr. Bunch and Finance Officer Sheri Small answered questions regarding property valuations. Commissioner Griffin noted that although the tax rate is proposed to increase, it is because of the decrease in property values as a result of the 2014 revaluation. Chairman Dixon thanked staff for their work preparing the budget and asked for a motion to call for a public hearing on the budget at the next meeting.

Motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Cecil Perry to call for a public hearing on the proposed FY 2014-15 county budget at the June 16, 2014 Commissioner meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**10. REPORT FROM COUNTY MANAGER:**

Mr. Bunch reported that bids will be received within the next two weeks for repairs to the bulkhead at Sawmill Park. He said the proposals will be provided to the Board at the next Finance Committee meeting.

**11. CALENDAR:**

The Clerk reviewed the calendar of upcoming meetings and events.

**12. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Chairman Dixon pointed out that the Board received good news at today's Finance Committee meeting that the county's credit rating has gone from an A- to an A. He noted that the rating could eventually go to an A+.

Commissioner William Sterritt reported that the Recreation Advisory Committee will be meeting Thursday at 5:30 PM. He said the committee will be pleased to know about the progress with Sawmill Park. Chairman Dixon said he would like to pass along to the committee that he read a blog post today from an individual who apparently walks frequently on the path beside the lake at Fun Junction. The individual stated that the path is in bad shape and needs repair work.

Commissioner Gary White said he has asked staff to meet with the Water Committee at its meeting this Wednesday at 2:00 PM to discuss the conversations at the work session today with the City Manager and the Perquimans County Manager regarding bulk water rates.

Commissioner Cecil Perry reported that Mr. Bob Etheridge, State Director of the Farm Service Agency, will hold a meeting at the Cornerstone Church on June 4 for those county residents who experienced losses due to the tornadoes last month.

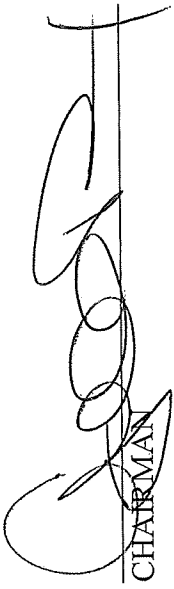
Commissioner Frankie Meads said it was a good report the Board received about the county's finances. He stated that one area he would like to mention that he believes should be looked at is to have a plan to get Pasquotank County debt free. He said the \$2.2 million annual debt payments could then be used for other county needs.

Chairman Dixon reported that he, Vice-Chairman Winslow, and the County Manager attended County Assembly Day in Raleigh on May 28. He stated that they along with representatives from Perquimans, Camden, and Chowan Counties were able to meet with Senator Cook and Representative Steinburg to address various issues affecting counties. He added that he believes the counties got their message across.

Chairman Dixon stated that on May 30 he attended a town hall meeting at Elizabeth City State University to address the potential closing of the university. He said the meeting was very informative and it appears, according to the article in Saturday's newspaper, that this will no longer be an issue.

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Joe Winslow to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

  
CHAIRMAN

  
CLERK TO THE BOARD