

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
JULY 13, 2020**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, July 13, 2020 in Courtroom A in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Dixon, Chairman
Lloyd E. Griffin, III, Vice-Chairman
Cecil Perry
Frankie Meads
Charles H. Jordan
Sean Lavin
Barry Overman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Sparty Hammett, County Manager
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board
Mike Cox, County Attorney
Shelley Cox, Planning Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Jeff Dixon. He welcomed those in attendance. Vice-Chairman Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Frankie Meads led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Dixon asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Finance Committee Chairman Lloyd Griffin requested the agenda be amended to add the following items recommended by the Finance Committee today: 1) Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church Request to Reduce Speed Limit; 2) Consideration of Offer for Moyock Property – 104 Lark Drive; 3) Consideration of Request to Surplus Old Sheriff's Department Shotguns; 4) Consideration of Request for Occupancy Tax Funds; and 5) Consideration of Resolution Requiring Face Coverings in County Facilities. Vice Chairman Griffin also asked that Item 7C – Adoption of Resolution Supporting Harbor Town Project to Request an EDA CARES Grant – be moved from the Consent Agenda to New Business for discussion.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Cecil Perry to amend the agenda to add items #1-4 to the Consent Agenda, item #5 to Old Business, and move item 7C from the Consent Agenda to New Business. The motion carried unanimously.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON REZONING REQUEST 20-01:

Chairman Dixon declared the meeting to be a public hearing on Rezoning Request RR 20-01 and asked for comments from the public.

Mr. Frank Martin stated that when he bought this property he was unaware that the current zoning prohibited him from putting a singlewide mobile home on it. He said the gentleman who sold it to him was also unaware. He noted that he is disabled and will be a quiet neighbor. He thanked the Board for their consideration.

Chairman Dixon asked if there were any further comments regarding Rezoning Request RR 20-01. There being none, the public hearing was closed and Chairman Dixon asked Ms. Cox to outline the request.

Planning Director Shelley Cox explained that RR 20-01 is a request to rezone a one (1) acre parcel from R15, Residential to A-1, Agricultural. In 1992, when zoning was originally adopted in Pasquotank County, a line was drawn that went 400' on either side of Simpson Ditch Road to designate as R-15. R-15 does not allow mobile homes to be placed in that district. It only allows for modular and stick built homes. Mr. Martin did not realize this when he purchased the property. Surrounding land uses include A-1 Agricultural and R-15 Residential, and consists of woodlands, residential properties, and vacant properties. The property directly abuts an A-1 Agricultural District. Mr. Martin is requesting to rezone the property to A-1, Agricultural to allow his mobile home to be located there. The Advance Core Land Use Plan adopted in 2004 classifies this site as Rural Agriculture. The request is consistent with that classification. The area requested for rezoning is not within the 100 year flood zone. All adjoining property owners were notified about the request. She said she only received one phone call prior to the Planning

Board meeting, which was from a neighbor who was in support of the application. Access to the property is provided onto Simpson Ditch Road. Should the rezoning be approved, all permitted uses in the A-1 District will be allowed at this location, subject to any conditions required by the Zoning Ordinance. The applicant has stated that his intended use of the property is to install a singlewide mobile home to be used as his residence. The surrounding area includes woodlands, farmland, and a variety of single-family residences, including stick built homes, doublewides, and singlewides.

Ms. Cox said this request is consistent with the Rural Agricultural classification in the Land Use Plan. The property is located adjacent to an existing A-1, Agricultural zoning district. The application has indicated that the rezoning is being requested in order for him to be able to install a singlewide mobile home on the property, which is not permitted in the current zoning district. She said staff recommends approval of the request.

On Thursday, June 25, 2020, the Planning Board reviewed the rezoning request and recommended approval, with the following consistency statement by a vote of 6 to 0:

Consistency Statement

RR 20-01 is a request to rezone a 1.0 acre parcel from R-15, Residential to A-1, Agricultural. This request is consistent with the Rural Agricultural classification of property as shown on the Future Land Use Classification map with the Pasquotank County-Elizabeth City Advanced Core Land Use Plan (adopted January 9, 2012). The rezoning is reasonable in the public interest because the property is located adjacent to the A-1, Agricultural zone.

Motion was made by Frankie Meads, seconded by Barry Overman to adopt the following Amendment to the Pasquotank County Zoning Ordinance, as well as the consistency statement recommended by the Planning Board regarding RR 20-01. The motion carried unanimously.

**AMENDMENT TO THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE
TO REZONE A ONE ACRE PARCEL AT 952-B SIMPSON DITCH ROAD
FROM R-15, RESIDENTIAL TO A-1, AGRICULTURAL
IN MOUNT HERMON TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Zoning Ordinance provides for the orderly growth and development of Pasquotank County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed text amendment would allow for a single-wide mobile home to be constructed at 952-B Simpson Ditch Road; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2020, the Pasquotank County Planning Board reviewed the proposed amendment and recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the amendment as proposed; and

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners held a duly-noticed public hearing on July 13, 2020 to consider amending the Zoning Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE ORDAINED BY THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

Section 1. The Pasquotank County Zoning Map is amended as follows (see attached map).

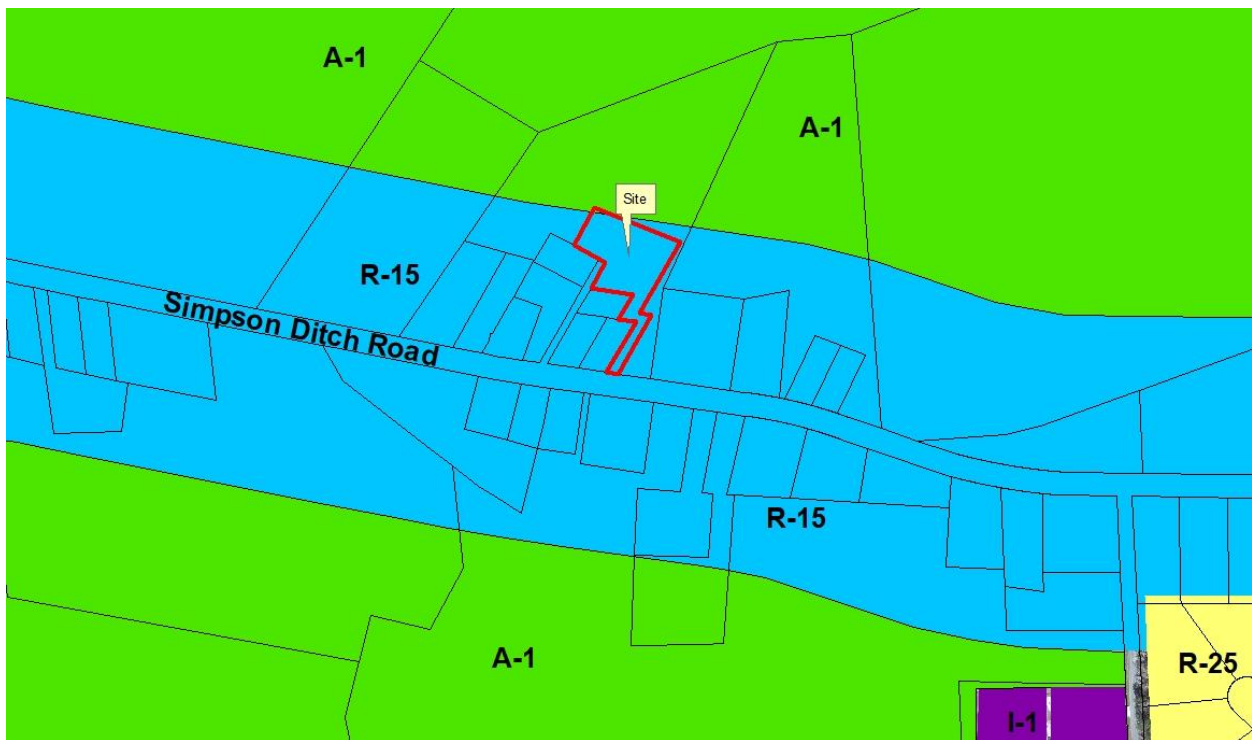
Section 2. This ordinance amendment is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 13th day of July, 2020.

Jeff Dixon, Chairman
Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lynn B. Scott
Clerk to the Board



3. PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT #20-01:

Chairman Dixon declared the meeting to be a public hearing on Zoning Text Amendment #20-01 and asked for comments from the public. Christian Lockamy, Director of the Economic Development Commission for Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County, said he is speaking tonight to encourage the Board's approval of removing solar farms as a permitted use out of the County's industrial zoning districts. His encouragement is based on our community's economic development efforts, which specifically align with our industrial marketplace. He said this is due to our Foreign Trade Zone 20 access for the Port of Virginia, our future interstate highway, the presence of our community college that can produce skilled labor, and our many local and regional industrial companies that are present, have located and even expanded in our marketplace in recent years. Rarely, does a year go by without an industrial company locating or expanding in our region. He said look no further than last year when Telephonics and Hockmeyer both launched expansions in our community. Also, look no further than Nebraska Plastics choosing our neighboring community of Edenton to locate their most recent manufacturing facility.

Mr. Lockamy said, simply put, our economic development efforts are always about people. Solar development brings temporary jobs, but very few, permanent full-time jobs. That land on our bypass and in our industrial parks has an intended purpose. And that purpose, he said, has and will always be quality job creation for the people living in our community and region. Those people are our people. They are our friends, our neighbors, and our kids that need a place to work so Northeastern North Carolina can remain home, without losing them to larger metro areas like Greenville, Raleigh, Richmond, and Wilmington. He stated that our folks deserve a shot as well. And, our industrial land is how we are taking that shot for people in our community that need a hand-up. Many of these people are minority and impoverished populations that are counted in our higher than average unemployment rate. And, helping to mitigate that via company recruitment and expansion, workforce development, and shovel-ready industrial land and buildings is how we conduct economic development as a community and in our region. He asked the Board to please support amending the zoning ordinance so our future job creation can continue to be prioritized and respected.

Chairman Dixon asked if there were any further comments regarding Zoning Text Amendment ZTA 20-01. There being none, the public hearing was closed and Chairman Dixon asked Ms. Cox to outline Zoning Text Amendment ZTA 20-01.

Ms. Cox explained that Section 9.04-29 Solar Farms is proposed to be amended as follows:

- a. No solar farm shall exceed a maximum of 1,500 acres. The size of a solar farm shall be calculated based on the parcel size(s) where the development is located.
- b. Solar farms shall observe a minimum separation of one mile from any other

solar farm that has received Conditional Use Permit approval. This separation shall be measured from the closest points of the property lines where solar farms are located and proposed.

Also the Table of Permitted Uses would be amended to remove solar farms as a permitted use in the I-1 and I-2 Industrial zoning districts. She stated that Pasquotank County's intent to preserve active, agriculture land has been established within both the Zoning Ordinance and the Pasquotank County Land Use Plan. The Zoning Ordinance states that the regulations for the A-1 and A-2 districts are designed to "retain the open characteristics of the land" and "for that reason, the permitted uses are limited in number" (Pasquotank County Zoning Ordinance, Article 5).

In addition, the Land Use Plan states "The Agriculture classification is intended to delineate lands primarily devoted to active agricultural and forestry land uses. However, this classification may also include some low intensity public and institutional land uses that support rural land uses." (Pasquotank County/Elizabeth City CAMA Land Use Plan, Section IV).

In order to be consistent with the spirit and intent of the Ordinance and Land Use Plan, staff is proposing the requested text amendment in an effort to provide a balance between agricultural uses and solar farm development within the county.

In addition, according to the Zoning Ordinance the purpose of the I-1 and I-2 Industrial Districts is to "define an area where manufacturing establishment may be developed" She said staff is proposing to eliminate solar farms as a permitted use within the Industrial zoning districts in order to preserve those areas for more intensive industrial and manufacturing developments.

Ms. Cox stated that the Planning Board reviewed this request on Thursday, June 25, 2020 and approved the following recommendations and consistency statement by a vote of 6 to 0:

Recommendation is for approval of the proposed amendment to the Pasquotank County Zoning Ordinance with standards recommended by staff. This amendment is consistent with the Pasquotank County Future Land Use Map's Agricultural and Industrial classifications and with the following policies within the Pasquotank County Elizabeth City Advance Core Land Use Plan:

- Section 4.1.1 Pasquotank County and Elizabeth City Goals – Table 44 Land Use Compatibility Goals "Encourage land development in accordance with the suitability of the land, compatibility of surrounding land uses and the infrastructure available."
- Section 4.1.1 Pasquotank County and Elizabeth City Goals – Table 44 Land Use Compatibility Goals "Promote diversified economic development."

The amendment is reasonable and in the public interest because the text will permit solar farm development while maintaining the County's agricultural heritage and preserving designated Industrial areas for industrial and manufacturing development.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Cecil Perry to adopt the following Amendment to the Pasquotank County Zoning Ordinance to modify the County's solar farm standards by establishing a 1,500 acre maximum size for new solar farms, require a one (1) mile minimum setback between developments, and remove solar farms as a permitted use in the I-1 and I-2 Industrial zoning districts as proposed by ZTA 20-01, as well as the consistency statement recommended by the Planning Board regarding ZTA 20-01. The motion carried 5 to 2, with Commissioners Meads and Griffin voting against the motion.

**AMENDMENT TO THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE
TO MODIFY THE COUNTY'S SOLAR FARM STANDARDS BY ESTABLISHING
A 1,500 ACRE MAXIMUM SIZE FOR NEW SOLAR FARMS, REQUIRE A
1 MILE MINIMUM SETBACK BETWEEN DEVELOPMENTS AND REMOVE
SOLAR FARMS AS A PERMITTED USE IN THE I-1 AND I-2 INDUSTRIAL
ZONING DISTRICTS AS PROPOSED BY ZTA 20-01**

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Zoning Ordinance provides for the orderly growth and development of Pasquotank County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed text amendment (1) would not allow the solar farm to exceed a maximum of 1,500 acres of disturbance; (2) solar farms shall observe a minimum separation of one mile from any other solar farm that has received Conditional Use Permit approval; and (3) would remove solar farms as a permitted use in I-1 and I-2 zoning districts; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2020, the Pasquotank County Planning Board reviewed the proposed amendment and recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the amendment as proposed; and

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners held a duly-noticed public hearing on July 13, 2020 to consider amending the Zoning Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE ORDAINED BY THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

Section 1. Article 7 of the Pasquotank County Zoning Ordinance is amended as follows:

7.01 Table of Permitted Uses is amended as shown on the attachment.

Proposed Ordinance Text

Additions and/or changes to the existing regulations are highlighted in yellow. Deletions are noted by strikethrough.

Section 2. Article 9 of the Pasquotank County Zoning Ordinance is amended as follows:

9.04-29 Solar Farms - Solar farms are permitted in districts as designated in the Table of Permitted Uses, subject to the following requirements:

- a. No solar farm shall exceed a maximum of 1,500 acres. ~~of disturbance.~~ The size of a solar farm shall be calculated based on the parcel size(s) where the development is located.
- b. Solar farms shall observe a minimum separation of one mile from any other solar farm that has received Conditional Use Permit approval. This separation shall be measured from the closest points of the property lines where solar farms are located and proposed.
- c. Structures shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height, as measured from grade at the base of the structure to its highest point;
- d. All structures and security fencing shall meet the following setbacks:
 1. 150' front property line setback;
 2. 50' side and rear property line setback;
 3. 150' setback from adjacent residential property lines or residential zoning districts;
 4. 100' minimum setback from CAMA designated navigable water bodies and Army Corps of Engineers wetlands. Any other additional setback required by the Army Corps of Engineers or CAMA shall also apply.
 5. ½ mile setback from Highway 17, Future I-87 and Halstead Boulevard Extended.
- e. All exterior sides of the security fence shall be screened with a landscape buffer that meets one of the following criteria:

6. Existing on-site mature vegetation at a minimum height of ten (10) feet and depth of fifty (50) feet remains between the security fence and adjacent property including rights-of-way; or
 7. A single row of evergreens in combination with mature vegetation, installed at a height of five (5) feet achieving opaqueness and a minimum height of ten (10) feet in five years; or
 8. A double row of off-set evergreens absent existing mature vegetation, installed at a height of five (5) feet achieving opaqueness and a minimum height of ten (10) feet in five years; or
 9. A berm combined with evergreen vegetation installed at a height of five (5) feet achieving opaqueness and a minimum height of ten (10) feet in five years.
- f. Solar farms shall be developed in accordance with an approved site plan that includes the following information:
1. The location of the solar farm facility (including the arrangement of any existing or proposed buildings, structures, or panels);
 2. The distance from any proposed solar farm facility or structure to the surrounding property lines;
 3. Any existing or proposed signs, fencing, lighting, construction and permanent parking areas, driveways, landscaping, vegetative screening or required buffers. All parking must be located outside of the state right-of-way;
 4. Horizontal and vertical (elevation) to-scale drawings with dimensions of proposed solar collector structures.
- g. Solar energy components must have a UL listing and must be designed with anti-reflective coating(s).
- h. Landscape buffers, ground cover, security fences, gates, and signage must be maintained in good condition until the solar farm is dismantled and removed from the site. Grass, weeds, and other ground cover must not exceed 12 inches in height at any time.
- i. An engineered drainage plan meeting the minimum requirements of the Pasquotank County Stormwater Design Manual shall be required with the submittal of the Conditional Use Permit application. Solar farms are required to be constructed according to their approved drainage plan.
- h. Decommissioning:
1. A decommissioning plan shall be required as part of the Conditional Use Permit application. This plan shall be prepared by a third party engineer and must be signed off by the party responsible for decommissioning and all landowners of property included in the project. The following items are required to be addressed or included in the decommissioning plan:
 - a. A description of any agreement (e.g. lease) with all landowners regarding decommissioning;
 - b. The identification of the party currently responsible for decommissioning;
 - c. The type of panels and material specifications being utilized at the site;

- d. All costs for the removal of solar panels, buildings, cabling, electrical components, roads, fencing, and any other associated facilities down to 36 inches below grade;
 - e. All costs associated with the grading and re-seeding of disturbed earth from the project.
2. Prior to the issuance of the building permit, the decommissioning plan shall be recorded by the applicant in the Pasquotank County Registry of Deeds.
 3. The decommissioning plan and estimated cost of removal shall be updated every 5 years or upon change of ownership of either the property or the project's owner. Any changes or updates to the plan shall be recorded in the County's Registry of Deeds.
 4. The owner of the solar farm shall provide a bond, cash escrow, or irrevocable letter of credit in favor of the County in an amount equal to one and a quarter times the estimated decommissioning cost. Should the solar farm owner elect to use a letter of credit, it shall be issued by a federally chartered bank with a branch office in northeastern North Carolina in favor of Pasquotank County. The institution issuing the guarantee shall provide to the county a notice no less than 90 days in advance of any renewal, cancellation, termination, or expiration of the guarantee. The bond or letter of credit shall remain in full force and effect until any necessary site restoration is completed to restore the site to a condition comparable to that which existed prior to the issuance of the Conditional Use Permit.
 5. Solar farms shall have 12 months to complete decommissioning of the facility if no electricity is generated for a continuous period of 12 months. For purposes of this section, this 12 month period shall not include delay resulting from force majeure.
 6. The decommissioning bond shall be drawn and paid for an amount equal to the estimated removal costs of the solar facility in the event the responsible party fails to decommission the solar facility pursuant to the requirements of this section and the Conditional Use Permit.

Section 3. This ordinance amendment is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 13th day of July, 2020.

Jeff Dixon, Chairman
Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lynn B. Scott
Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Meads said he feels 1,500 acres is still too large of an area to allow solar farms.

Vice-Chairman Griffin said we need to be careful with setbacks. He agreed that 1,500 acres is too large of an area.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 20-01:

Chairman Dixon declared the meeting to be a public hearing on Subdivision Text Amendment STA 20-01 and asked for comments from the public. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

Ms. Cox said the amendment is a result of the Board’s discussion regarding Strawberry Acres Subdivision several months ago. At that time, it was noted that there were concerns about the long term maintenance implications of having a planted buffer area for residential subdivisions adjacent to existing agricultural uses. Staff has proposed to eliminate the buffer area and replace it with an additional 75’ setback. The Planning Board reviewed the request at their meeting on June 25, 2020, and they recommended approval by a vote of 5 to 0, with the following consistency statement:

Recommendation is for approval of the proposed amendment to the Pasquotank County Subdivision Ordinance with standards recommended by staff. This amendment is consistent with the following policies within the Pasquotank County Elizabeth City Advance Core Land Use Plan:

- Section 4.1.1 Pasquotank County and Elizabeth City Goals – Table 44 Land Use Compatibility Goals “Encourage land development in accordance with the suitability of the land, compatibility of surrounding land uses and the infrastructure availability.”
- Section 4.1.1 Pasquotank County and Elizabeth City Goals – Table 44 Infrastructure Carrying Capacity Goal “Promote land use and public infrastructure development that is compatible with land suitability as well as capabilities to provide public service.

The amendment is reasonable and in the public interest because the text will ensure that an undeveloped buffer is preserved between residential and agricultural uses.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Sean Lavin to adopt the following Amendment to the Pasquotank County Subdivision Ordinance to eliminate a 75’ planted buffer adjacent to existing agricultural uses and allow that area to be included within individual lots as a 75’ property line setback as proposed, as well as the consistency statement recommended by the Planning Board regarding STA 20-01. The motion carried unanimously.

**AMENDMENT TO THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY SUBDIVISION
ORDINANCE TO ELIMINATE A 75’ PLANTED BUFFER ADJACENT
TO EXISTING AGRICULTURAL USES AND ALLOW THAT AREA
TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN INDIVIDUAL LOTS AS A 75’ PROPERTY
LINE SETBACK AS PROPOSED BY STA 20-01**

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Subdivision Ordinance provides for the orderly growth and development of subdivisions within Pasquotank County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed text amendment will remove the required 75’ planted buffer strip between residential subdivisions and existing agricultural uses and replace it with a 75’ additional building setback; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2020, the Pasquotank County Planning Board reviewed the proposed amendment and recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the amendment as proposed; and

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners held a duly-noticed public hearing on July 13, 2020 to consider amending the Subdivision Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE ORDAINED BY THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

Section 1. Article IV of the Pasquotank County Subdivision Ordinance is amended as follows:

Proposed Ordinance Text

Additions and/or changes to the existing regulations are highlighted in yellow. Deletions are noted by ~~strikethrough~~.

**ARTICLE IV
MINIMUM DESIGN STANDARDS**

18. ~~Buffer Strips~~ **Additional Setback** Between Residential Subdivisions and Existing Agricultural Uses
{Amended 12-19-05}

~~Residential subdivisions are required to provide a 75' perpetually maintained vegetative buffer along all property lines that are located adjacent to existing agricultural uses. This buffer shall be permanently set aside as open space. Ownership and maintenance of the required open space shall be the responsibility of the developer and/or a Homeowner's Association. A 6:1 sloped ditch shall be located on the property line adjacent to the buffer (see figure 1).~~

~~The required buffer shall include a minimum of two rows of trees and must meet the following criteria:~~

- ~~1. At least fifty (50) percent of the required trees shall be an evergreen species.~~
- ~~2. Each tree shall be a minimum eight (8) feet in height and shall have a minimum caliper of two (2) inches (measured six inches above grade) at the time of planting.~~
- ~~3. Each tree shall be a species which can be expected to attain a minimum height of forty (40) feet and have a crown width of thirty (30) feet or greater at maturity.~~
- ~~4. Minimum spacing in each row shall generally be no wider than twenty (20) feet between tree trunks.~~
- ~~5. There shall be a minimum distance of fifteen (15) feet from the property line adjacent to the agricultural use and the first row of trees.~~

~~Stormwater retention ponds are allowed within the buffer yard provided that the proposed locations of such uses are necessary for their proper functioning, the total width of the buffer yard is maintained, and no screening required by this ordinance is reduced or eliminated.~~

~~Existing vegetation that meets or exceeds the screening requirements may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section.~~

Residential lots that are located adjacent to an existing agricultural use shall require a minimum 75' setback from the property line.

Section 2. This ordinance amendment is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 13th day of July, 2020.

Jeff Dixon, Chairman
Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lynn B. Scott
Clerk to the Board

5. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER CONTRACTING WITH SANFORD HOLSHOUSER FOR STATE OF NC CERTIFICATION OF PASQUOTANK COUNTY COMMERCE PARK:

Chairman Dixon declared the meeting to be a public hearing to consider contracting with Sanford Holshouser for State of N.C. Certification of the Pasquotank County Commerce Park and asked for comments from the public. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

Chairman Dixon explained that the Board had previously approved contracting with Sanford Holshouser for State of North Carolina Certification of the Pasquotank County Commerce Park, with a not to exceed expenditure of \$20,000. But, because this is an economic development expenditure, a public hearing is required.

Christian Lockamy, Economic Development Director, explained that this is to certify the Pasquotank County Commerce Park. He said this will speak to industries that are looking for a fast location, with a reduced timeline. These shovel ready sites gain a lot of traction all over the United States. They are the next best thing to having a building that a company could go in, which goes hand and hand with our economic development plan.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Sean Lavin to approve contracting with Sanford Holshouser for State of N.C. Certification of the Pasquotank County Commerce Park, with a not to exceed expenditure of \$20,000. The motion carried unanimously.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING REMOVAL OF CONFEDERATE MONUMENT FROM COURTHOUSE GROUNDS:

Chairman Dixon called on each individual who had signed up to address the Board. He asked that each speaker keep their comments to three minutes.

Holly Audette of 609 W. Main Street spoke in opposition of moving the monument.

George Hague of 2371 Delia Drive spoke in opposition of moving the monument.

Bill Ward of 1713 W. Main Street spoke in opposition of moving the monument.

Larry Cooke of 106 S. McMorrine Street spoke in opposition of moving the monument.

Maureen Donnelly of 108 E. Fearing Street spoke in favor of moving the monument.

Ray Donnelly of 108 E. Fearing Street spoke in favor of moving the monument.

Keith Rivers of 104 Grandview Drive spoke in favor of moving the monument.

Eddie White of 946 S. Highway 158 spoke in favor of movement the monument.

Frank Roberts of 491 Okisko Road spoke in opposition of moving the monument.

Forrest Turner of 1126 Chestnut Drive spoke in opposition of moving the monument.

Timothy Witwer of 304 Breezewood Drive spoke in opposition of moving the monument.

Emmett Murphy of 226 Lynette Drive spoke in opposition of moving the monument.

Tim Barnett of 1005 Park Street spoke in favor of moving the monument.

Hashin Harper of 1505 E. Penny Drive spoke in opposition of moving the monument.

A.J. McPherson of 302 Pinelake Drive spoke in opposition of moving the monument.

7. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

The Board considered a recommendation made by the Appointments Committee at their last meeting to appoint Montrose Hinton to the Social Services Board. Her application for appointment has been provided to members of the Board. Chairman Dixon asked if there were any further nominations for consideration. There being none;

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Cecil Perry to approve the appointment of Montrose Hinton to the Social Services Board. The motion carried unanimously.

8. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

A citizen came forward and asked that additional speakers be given time to address to the Board regarding removal of the Confederate Monument from courthouse grounds. She stated that she thought the meeting was at 7:00 PM. Chairman Dixon stated that he would allow two additional speakers at this time.

The lady who asked to speak did not state her name. She stated that she would like to share her allotted time with Doug Leary of Camden. Both citizens spoke in opposition of moving the monument.

Johnnie Houston of Elizabeth City spoke in favor of moving the monument.

9. CONSIDERATION OF REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS IN COUNTY FACILITIES:

The Board considered adopting a resolution requiring some type of face covering or protective face mask be worn when in all County owned facilities.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Barry Overman to adopt the following resolution requiring some type of face covering when in County owned facilities.

**RESOLUTION
REQUIRING SOME TYPE OF FACE COVERING
WHEN IN COUNTY OWNED FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, The North Carolina General Assembly has adopted Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the General Statutes, entitled “North Carolina Emergency Management Act”, which sets forth the authority and responsibility of the Governor, State agencies, and local governments in prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from natural or man-made emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Governor Cooper’s Executive Order 147 implemented new statewide requirements for face coverings; and

WHEREAS, G.S. §166A-19.22 and G.S. §166A-19.31, which are part of the North Carolina Emergency Management Act, authorize counties and municipalities to declare states of emergency and authorizes counties and municipalities to impose prohibitions and restrictions under conditions and following procedures contained in G.S. §166A-19.22 and G.S. §166A-19.31; and

WHEREAS, the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a global pandemic that is easily transmitted from person to person and has created a state of emergency in the State of North Carolina, County of Pasquotank; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County signed a Proclamation of State of Emergency on March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has determined that COVID-19 is spread primarily between people in close proximity to one another, and can be transmitted through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks and recommends social distancing to prevent the continued spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, slowing and controlling community spread is critical to ensure healthcare facilities can meet the demands of those needing health care and not overwhelm the system; and

WHEREAS, CDC recommends wearing a face covering or non-surgical protective face masks in public settings, practicing social distancing and washing one’s hands frequently as measures designed to help slow or prevent the spread of the virus and to prevent individuals who may be infected and unaware from transmitting the virus to others; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County staff will either wear a face covering or conduct business behind protective barriers; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

This resolution is being created to require some type of face covering or protective face mask when in all County owned facilities.

This the 13th day of July, 2020.

Commissioner Meads stated that he objects to wearing masks, noting that our Governor did not wear a mask when attending a protest in Raleigh. If it’s not good enough for the Governor to wear one, then it’s not good enough for him to wear one. He said he will continue to use social distancing, but the studies he has read informed him that wearing masks are not healthy.

The motion carried five to two, with Commissioners Meads and Lavin voting against the motion.

10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2020 Commissioner Meeting

b. Adoption of Order Directing the Tax Administrator to Collect Taxes for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year

The Board is required to adopt the following order directing and authorizing the Tax Administrator to collect the 2020 taxes.

TO: THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR OF PASQUOTANK COUNTY

You are hereby authorized, empowered and commanded to collect the taxes set forth in the 2020 tax records filed in the office of the Pasquotank County Tax Administrator, and in the tax receipts herewith delivered to you in the amounts and from the taxpayers likewise therein set forth. You are further authorized, empowered and commanded to collect the 2020 taxes charged and assessed as provided by law for adjustments, changes, and additions to the tax records and tax receipts delivered to you which are made in accordance with law. Such taxes are hereby declared to be a first lien on all real property of the respective taxpayers in Pasquotank County, and this order shall be a full and sufficient authority to direct, require and enable you to levy on and sell any real or personal property of such taxpayers, for and on account thereof, in accordance with law.

c. Approval of Request to Ask DOT to Revisit Reducing Speed Limit in Front of Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church

The Finance Committee has recommended submitting Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church's request to reduce the speed limit in front of the church from 55 mph to 45 mph to the NCDOT for reconsideration.

d. Approval of Offer for Moyock Property – 104 Lark Drive

The Finance Committee has recommended approval to accept an offer of \$150,000 for property located at 104 Lark Drive in Moyock and initiating the upset bid process.

e. Approval of Request to Surplus Old Sheriff's Department Shotguns

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a request from the Sheriff's Department to surplus 13 old Mossberg 500 shotguns, and offer deputies the opportunity to purchase the firearms for the trade in allowance of \$65.

f. Approval of Request for Occupancy Tax Funds from Arts of the Albemarle

The Finance Committee has requested that the Board approve an appropriation of \$17,500 to Arts of the Albemarle from tourism (occupancy tax) funds. An application for tourism funds will need to be submitted to the Tourism Development Authority.

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

11. CONSIDERATION OF RELOCATING CONFEDERATE MONUMENT:

County Manager Hammett stated that he has the following comments related solely to the public safety aspect of this item:

As a public official, based upon observation, research, community discussion, and in consultation with law enforcement, I have determined that the Confederate monument on the courthouse property poses a threat to public safety and creates a dangerous condition for the property, law enforcement, and citizens in our community.

The Confederate monument has been vandalized in the past. We also had to recently secure the monument in response to law enforcement intelligence that a protest group from Northern Virginia would be coming to Elizabeth City in opposition to a proposed peaceful rally. With the current state of civil unrest in the country, Confederate monuments have been a source of focus which often brings outside fringe groups into communities. At least 16 Confederate monuments

have been moved in North Carolina since George Floyd's death on May 25th, and many other cities and counties throughout the state are discussing relocation of monuments.

In eastern North Carolina, two Confederate monuments were moved in Wilmington, and a monument was moved in Rocky Mount. Downtown Greenville had riots and violence around the monument and courthouse resulting in significant property damage, before the County decided to relocate it. After midnight on Saturday night, the Confederate monument in Clinton, North Carolina in front of the Sampson County Courthouse was partially torn down, and subsequently moved by the County. Clinton, NC has less than half of the population of Elizabeth City. Sampson County has 64,000 residents, but is it very rural and sparsely populated, as it is over four times the size of our County.

The Board meeting tonight and the associated media coverage will bring more attention to the fact that we still host a Confederate monument on County property. As more jurisdictions move their Confederate monuments, there is a likelihood that the remaining monuments will bring in outside groups that could result in both property damage and violence. All of these conditions lead me to believe that leaving the monument in its existing location poses a threat to public safety because of these unsafe and dangerous conditions.

Vice Chairman Griffin read N.C.G.S. 102.1 regarding conditions in which monuments are allowable.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Charles Jordan to move the Confederate monument from the courthouse lawn to a non-public location, based on the County Manager's comments regarding it posing public safety concerns.

Commissioner Lavin said he is going to start his comments with a quote from Thomas Sowell. He said he is not sure if anyone in attendance has read any of his books, but he is an African American, contemporary writer. "The only times over which we have any degree of influence at all are the present and the future — both of which can be made worse by attempts at symbolic restitution among the living for what happened among the dead, who are far beyond our power to help or punish or avenge. Any serious consideration of the world as it is around us today must tell us that maintaining common decency, much less peace and harmony, among living contemporaries is a major challenge, both among nations and within nations. To admit that we can do nothing about what happened among the dead is not to give up the struggle for a better world, but to concentrate our efforts where they have at least some hope of making things better for the living". He said he thinks that quote pretty much sums up everything in front of us today. At least, the way he views things.

Commissioner Lavin said racism has no place in our country or in our communities. He realizes that his truth is a little bit different than most people in here, because he came from a different area. He was raised in a different community than most were here. He came from an intercity neighborhood in Greenville, where his neighborhood, plus the other neighborhoods around it were bused out to the county. The truth is he went to school with a lot of people that did not look like him. He said he probably faced a lot of hatred and evil. He stated that he only tells us that to say there are a lot of people, if you talk to them and understand their backgrounds that have a lot of similarities. We are probably more similar than we are different. He appreciates everyone's comments today and the nuances. He said we did not go down the road that he sees playing on the national media, and that all decisions are binary that you have to do one thing or the other. A lot of times they are kind of nuance. He objects the idea that you have to be one thing or the other. People have the right to arrive at their own beliefs based on what they have experienced and what they believe in. They ought to be able to speak out and to feel comfortable in the communities they live in. He thinks we are missing an opportunity to really make an impact and have some meaningful change here.

When he first moved here, he noticed that it was extremely segmented. We have locals, we have the university, and we have the Coast Guard and there is very little interaction and mix between those. He is proud that we can take this opportunity to hopefully try to impress some of those things that we know are shortcomings here within our community. At the same time, he personally feels like while we have an example of a dark chapter in our society outside, that we need to do a better job of telling the rest of the story, because he thinks it is a great story. While it was dark at that period and that chapter, it has a bright ending. He does not think that we are doing ourselves justice if we are not talking about the diverse history of this area. He said it was eluded to that not everybody in this area was on one side or the other. This is what they talk about when they say brothers fought against brothers and families fought against families. We

were the last state to secede. Those are the types of history that needs to be told. He should not have to learn about the rich history of the Underground Railroad in this area because the Ghost Walk wants to do something about it every four years. Without telling the context of how those things occurred and how slaves fought for their freedom, the Underground Railroad is just the ultimate game of hide and seek. It completely loses its meaning. He stated that he is for keeping the monument. He believes there are parts of it that are painful, and he knows we need to learn from that and address it.

Commissioner Perry said he would like to say that he is glad we are having this discussion. He said he probably knows as much about this area as anyone in this courtroom. He is 83 years old. He knows about walking to school and having people spit on him. He knows driving through Dover, Delaware and having to get off the bus when they leave to go north. He knows all that stuff, but that is not what this is about. This is about that monument that states that it honors Confederate soldiers. There are about 40 African American soldiers that fought on the other side out in the cemetery. He stated that it does not belong on this property. When people are coming in here for trial, and they go out in the courtyard, they actually see that monument and decide that when they come in here they are not going to have a fair trial in their minds.

Commissioner Perry said he thinks there needs to be more conversations about love and how we can work together, not hate one another. He said he loves everyone, but he speaks the truth. The truth of the matter is we all need to learn how to get together and work together and see things that affect other people. He does not want to do anything that will hurt anyone in here. He is hurt by the idea of someone saying a slave shouldn't pay attention to it. He cannot help it. His father taught him to love. He thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to express himself. He said read what General Robert E. Lee said about statutes and then talk about it. He thinks you will find that he said we should not build statutes.

Commissioner Meads said he thinks one of the things that started the pressure on moving monuments up and down across the country was because of the shooting that took place with the police officer there, but let's get some true history about how many people the police officers have shot in the last year. According to the Washington Post 9,626 people have been shot and killed by police this year. Of that number, only 114 were black. He said he has two letters he wishes to give to the clerk. Clay Lewis wrote one of the letters and he suggested that we put a plaque on each side of that monument, which he thought was a pretty good suggestion. On one side you put what one side thought about it, and on the other side you put what the other side thinks about that monument, like the reason why you thought the monument was there, and why the war was fought and why all this took place. His family never owned slaves. They could never afford it. They were too poor. Not only that, but they did not believe in slaves. Back in the 40's when it was not popular to be a Republican, the Mead's on Meadstown were Republicans.

Commissioner Meads said the monument is a reminder of the history that took place. He was taught in school that you learn history so that it does not repeat itself. It is a reminder of what took place and that is the way we ought to take it. He remembers when he went to school and they had the Ten Commandments on the wall, but the Supreme Court ruled those out. After we took the Ten Commandments off the wall, we had to put the police force in the school system. When he went to school, boys in high school carried their shotguns to school and parked them on the school grounds in the back of their trucks so they could go hunting after school. You see how quick we forget things? The Bible tells us real often, we need to be reminded. That is why the Ten Commandments were on the wall of the schoolhouse back then. You don't kill. You don't steal. You don't bear false witnesses. You don't do these things. All of this is part of the makeup of the Constitution of the United States of America. We learned that from the Bible. Yes, there have been police officers that did things that they shouldn't have done. He is sure the County Commissioners have done things they shouldn't do, like the school teachers and any other professions that you want to look at, but we need to be constantly reminded and that's why that monument is sitting there. It has been there 109 years now, and all of a sudden it has become a problem. In fact, several of the people that spoke today were from the north. He knows many of them were raised in the north. So, let's tell both sides of why the monument is there. If you don't think one side is being shown properly about what happened during the war or what took place, then let's show both sides.

Not only that, but one of the things that David Barton says is that when he looks in our school system today there are hardly two or three of our four fathers even mentioned in our history books. As the gentleman said earlier, we need to know history, but we don't know history. The only thing we know today the TV tells us and that is not accurate in most cases. He said it does

not have anything to do with colors. It has something to do with what happened. It's history and that is all it is. That monument has never moved since it has been sitting there. It's not even exposed, very little, only from one side. If we want to move that monument, and a nonprofit organization wants to get involved and move it, they pay for it, and we find a good place to locate it, where it can be viewed from three different directions, he is certainly in favor of it.

Commissioner Perry called for the question. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion.

Commissioners Overman and Griffin said they both have comments that they would like to share prior to a vote.

The motion failed 2 to 5, with Commissioners Dixon, Griffin, Meads, Overman, and Lavin voting against the motion.

Commissioner Overman said he finds more teachable moments from his children in the past couple years than he ever dreamed possible in a man's lifetime. Amongst COVID-19, the 2nd Amendment Rights, and everything that our country is going through, it drains his soul that he has three children that are growing up in the America that we now live in. He said he is a very optimistic person. His glass is usually half full. He thinks his friends would say that he is the fun guy at the party because he does not dwell on negativity. It is not good for the soul. It's not good for the heart. He stated that a merry heart doeth good like a medicine. That is what his Bible teaches him and that is what he clings to. However, he finds himself, like he did in previous years on the school board, having to make decisions that are 50% enjoyment to one group and 50% dismay to the other. He said that is why the Board is put here, to make those decisions. He does not take these decisions lightly. His wife worries about his health because he takes it very serious when something affects his community he has been a part of for fifty one years.

He said when we had the 2nd Amendment hearing in Courtroom C, we had about twelve people sign up to speak. Eleven were for 2nd Amendment rights and one was against. The subject matter of the night was not what concerned him, but it was the way that the other eleven acted when the one against it stood up to speak. It confirmed what he did not want to believe in our society that you cannot speak your opinion and be respected anymore. He finds himself as a commissioner asking the others to please be quiet and let him have his three minutes like he allowed you to have. Although he was the minority in the room, he had just as much opportunity and democracy as anyone there. He tells his kids all the time, if you want to see a man's true character, give him one of three things, stress, money, or power, then you will not have to worry about what his character is because it will show up. I promise you. He can front it for a long time, but if you give him one of these three, you will see the true person's character.

He stated that he has struggled with this decision because he was raised in Weeksville. He is young. He is only 51 years old, but he was raised in a neighborhood where his best friend was a black man. He still is. He did not understand racism until he started public service and began to recognize that it was coming back, when we thought it had been gone for so many years. He said they did not know any different in Weeksville. He lived on a dirt road, and was on food stamps for four years of his life. He ate government cheese. They did not think anything of it. His father put himself back through school when he was eleven years old. They did not know any different, and they didn't care. They had their friends down the road they played ball with. While he is only 51, he had a childhood that taught him that material things didn't matter. What mattered was a man's heart – a woman's heart, not the color of your skin.

It nearly brings him to tears when he talks about this issue, because the Christian man in him wants to be the peacemaker. That is what God calls us to be. Blessed are peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. It is hard to make difficult decisions when you know it is going to even more divide the community. It hurts us all. He does not think that any of us are proud, but we have to decide one way or the other, because one is going to win and one is going to lose. In his mind, it is not that way at all. He use to tell his employees, don't bring a problem to me unless you bring a resolution, because he is not their problem solver, they are. He is leading them, but the 30 employees are making decisions that far outweigh his. A man or woman's opinion is based on their knowledge and their upbringing. He is just dumb enough to know that if a man brings more knowledge to him, he is not stubborn enough to excuse it, because he was brought up a different way. He is open-minded or he likes to think he is. For someone to send him a message on Facebook and tell him that all people have some form of racism, he denies that. Again, it is their opinion and that is fine. He was brought up that it did not matter. With all

that said, he was born a white boy and all his life he has been a white boy. He can pretend to put himself in Mr. Charles' shoes, Mr. Cecil's shoes, or several of his very close black friends that he holds dear as family, but he really does not know what goes on in their minds when they walk by the sidewalk and see that statute. He can't speak on their behalf. He can say, "Well if I was a black man, that was over 100 years ago and it does not affect me", but I'm not in their shoes. I was not raised where they were raised. So, it grieves him to have to decide, but here we are. After several tough weeks amidst a COVID-19 situation, we still have to make a decision and for something that has been on our lawn for this long, he thinks it needs more than just one night of discussion. He knows that the County Manager would agree that we are worried that it will be toppled over before we can make a decision. Not by the ones represented here, but from hate groups probably from another place who think they will take care of it for us. He hopes that does not happen. He hopes we can deal with it the right way.

With that said, he stated that he received a lot of e-mails and a lot of letters from a lot of people. We have 40,000 people that live in this County and every single one of them has an opinion about the monument. When one of the individuals stood up to speak, it made him think about his history class in high school and how much he learned. He loved history. It affects him differently than it does anyone else probably. All he can do is base it on his childhood, the way he was brought up, and how he views it now. With that being said, he would vote tonight with the motion, only because he wants it to go back to the Special Projects Committee, like we talked about before, to determine if it's not removing the monument, that it's just moving it, then, what is a suitable place to put it. If it's not going to be torn down, then let's handle it with care before it gets torn down and see if there is a compromise of where we can move it and maybe not using tax dollars. Maybe people will step up and say we will pay to get it moved so that we can find some resolution where we can all decide it's still there, just not on the courthouse lawn where it has been for a long time. He has to say that from his heart, because he respects the black men and women in his life that he has known for all his life, to give him just as much of his time as he would any person and respect that the way they grew up and what they believe is just as important to them as it is to him.

Vice-Chairman Griffin read a quote. When the chips are down, the soldiers are not fighting or dying for any issue or political party. They are fighting for their own survival, the survival of their friends to the left and the survival of them to the right. Their county in the 19th Century the world was a much larger place than it is now. It took days to go distances that now takes hours. In the 19th Century in America, you were a citizen of the state first and nation second. With regard to the men that fought for the Confederacy that did not own slaves, they were ordinary men who lived in the same lands and cities surrounding the counties that we live in today. When they joined the fight, they were not standing up for slavery; they were defending the little world they lived in, their family, their wife, their homestead, their towns, and where they went to church. Their cities represented only government personalities regardless of politics. If an invaded Army came into your little world and threatened the existence of everything you knew, what would you do?

He said he did not hear anyone in this room tonight say that they did not respect the monument. However, they felt that the monument was a remembrance of oppression at that time. He said he agrees with Commissioner Overman, you must be very humble when you sit in their position, which he has sat in a number of years. He has made some pretty tough decisions. He knows that politics does not always come with pleasure. We all worry about what others think. I hear members of a group saying they respect the monument, but you hear the County Manager say that it has become a public safety issue. There are areas where towns are being burned and monuments are being torn down of George Washington and Christopher Columbus, and even Stevie Ray Vaughn's statute has been defaced. He asked who is actually being hurt, the monuments themselves.

Vice-Chairman Griffin stated that for the Board of Commissioners to sit here tonight and say we need to move the monument off of County property might be a sound decision so that we can protect our history. It could be moved to a prominent location. As Commissioner Meads said, I will support removal of it, and place it in place of protection. He said he asked who actually owns the monument and was informed that it is the women that paid for the monument back in 1911. The monument that was just taken down in Bertie County was on private land and was moved to a place they felt was safer. He said he is with Commissioner Overman, out of respect of our overall community, he thinks this issue should go to the Special Projects Committee to research the cost of moving the monument, as well as where it will be moved. He supports moving the monument due to it being a public safety concern, while preserving our history.

Commissioner Jordan said he agrees with the other commissioners. He said this is a very difficult decision. He did not even know where the monument was. He got a chance to look at the monument, as well as do a lot of reading and listened to a lot of things that have been said. He stated that he believes in compromise. His personal opinion is that the monument should not be on property owned by the County, but he also believes in compromising and working together to try to work this thing out together. It is very important. When he ran for office, one of the things he said was he wants to be for all the citizens of Pasquotank County and to work with them. He thinks in light of what we have heard here tonight, it is better for us at this time to move the monument. He feels the subject should go back to the Special Projects Committee to talk about what would be an appropriate place.

Commissioner Meads said he would like to clarify something that was said earlier. He thinks people need to understand that there were fifteen families in Virginia that owned slaves. Chairman Dixon stated that has nothing to do with the monument.

Chairman Dixon asked the Clerk to read the motion on the floor. Ms. Scott said the motion was to move the monument off of County property due to public safety concerns. Commissioner Overman asked Commissioner Perry if he would be willing to adjust his motion to recommend forwarding the item back to the Special Projects Committee to review the options for relocation and associated costs. Commissioner Perry said he would be willing to do that if it is just for finding a location. He wants it to be clear that the vote will be for moving the monument. Commissioner Jordan said he would support moving the monument, and send it back to Special Projects to decide a location and costs.

A gentleman from the audience stated that he is not clear on what the Board is talking about. He said everybody is talking about something different. He stated that there are commissioners talking that do not have microphones and it is echoing in the audience. Chairman Dixon stated that he understands that the accommodations are not the best in the world, but we are trying to accommodate the public. The gentleman said the Board is going to make a decision on the people who either want it moved or the people who want it to stay. He asked if you move it, what is the guarantee that somebody, wherever you decide to move it, it will not be vandalized where it is moved to. He thinks the people have the right to know, before the Board decides, where it is going to go. If it is moved, it needs to be in a safe area. Commissioner Overman said the Special Projects Committee will take care of that concern. Mr. Rivers asked for clarification that the monument will not be moved from public property to another public property. Chairman Dixon stated that the Special Projects Committee will research and try to find a new home for it.

Motion was made by Commissioner Perry, seconded by Commissioner Jordan to move the monument to a nonpublic location due to the County Manager's concerns regarding public safety, and move the item forward to the Special Projects Committee to find a suitable location and cost. The motion carried 4 to 3, with Commissioners Dixon, Meads and Lavin voting against the motion.

12. DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

The Board considered a voting delegate for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Annual Conference that will be held virtually this year due to COVID-19.

Motion was made by Chairman Dixon, seconded by Barry Overman to designate Charles Jordan as the voting delegate for the 2020 NCACC Annual Conference. The motion carried unanimously.

13. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HARBOR TOWN PROJECT:

Vice-Chairman Griffin said the Albemarle Commission has not approved this request. He noted that Albemarle Commission was asked to be the administrator of the Harbor Town Ferry grant. They are meeting this Thursday to take action. He asked that the Board delay action until Albemarle Commission has the opportunity to discuss it further.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Frankie Meads to delay action on the resolution supporting the Harbor Town Project. The motion failed 2 to five, with Commissioners Dixon, Perry, Jordan, Overman, and Lavin voting against the motion.

County Manager Hammett explained that the resolution for consideration does not have anything to do with the Harbor Town Fast Ferry, rather it is about year around tourism, marketing our collective group of small towns/counties under the umbrella or theme of water. It is the same five cities/counties, but it is not related to the ferry whatsoever. Commissioner Griffin said it is for building the infrastructure. Mr. Hammett said it has absolutely no relationship to the Harbor Town Ferry. Visit Elizabeth City is part of a collaboration with other tourism development authorities in Perquimans, Chowan, Terrell, and Washington called the Harbor Town Project. The five tourism directors have been meeting regularly to discuss and implement regional marketing initiatives, with support from UNC and Visit North Carolina. The ongoing collaboration affords the opportunity to leverage and intertwine northeastern North Carolina rural economies by collectively sharing information. He said all regional TDA's are working on pieces of the grant application. All have equal voice in using the received money, and all will own any finished product, including items such as a logo or website. He noted that it is a very competitive grant and TDA is asking the Board to support the grant. There are no costs associated with the grant. Chairman Dixon explained that the grant will support tourism-based pandemic recovery and resilience efforts to benefit public and provide sector economic recovery through a regional marketing and promotion initiative. Commissioner Griffin asked that the Board get all the information on this before voting.

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Barry Overman to adopt the following resolution supporting the current proposal of the Harbor Town Project. The motion carried 5 to 2, with Commissioners Griffin and Meads voting against the motion.

Resolution

Whereas, Pasquotank County is a member of the Harbor Town Group, (Hertford/Perquimans, Plymouth/Washington, Edenton/Chowan, Columbia/Tyrrell, and Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County, NC) as these five towns/counties are all located on rivers that flow into the Albemarle Sound which connects them as a collective tourist destination and regional economy; And

Whereas, The economy of each town/county is impacted by business and tourism related activities in the other towns/counties; And

Whereas, Because of the proximity of the towns/counties to each other, events that impact businesses in one town/county can result in employment loss or gain of residents in all of the towns/counties; And

Whereas, Marketing is essential to the success of the combined economies of all five towns/counties; And

Whereas, the Corona Virus Pandemic has had a significant negative effect on tourism and therefore on the public sector and the private sector in each of the Harbor Towns and across the region, including a loss in tourism-related tax revenues and businesses that have suffered lost or reduced business, reduced revenues, reduced hours, and had to lay off employees; And

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Pasquotank County supports the current proposal of the Harbor Town Project to request an EDA CARES grant to support tourism-based pandemic recovery and resilience efforts to benefit public and private sector economic recovery through a regional marketing and promotion initiative.

Adopted this the 13th day of July 2020.

14. REPORTS FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY:

County Attorney Mike Cox stated that he participated in a virtual County Attorney's Conference last week where the main topic was COVID-19.

15. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Overman attended the monthly DSS meeting.

Commissioners Lavin recognized a 15 year old young man in the Newland area who pulled his brothers and their dog out of their burning home. He hopes to invite the young man to a future meeting to be recognized by the Board.

Chairman Dixon asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being no further business;

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Cecil Perry to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD