

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 5, 2013**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, August 5, 2013 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, Interim County Manager

R. Michael Cox, County Attorney

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.

1. COMMENTS REGARDING RESTRUCTURING PROPOSAL:

Chairman Dixon recognized Miss Mary Sharpe of 1235 Salem Church Road to address the Board. Miss Sharpe said as discussion has been held about redistricting she would commend Commissioner Perry for presenting his thoughts. She stated that she believes the 2-2-2-1 plan should be adopted. She said as she looks at the Board of Commissioners she sees one African American and the rest are Caucasians. She asked what would happen if that were reversed. She said there should be an opportunity for another African American to be a member of the Board of Commissioners. She stated that this is about the future. She asked that the Board examine what we do and think about what we say and how it should be done. She said it is not difficult, but is the attitude everyone has about the situation, whether it is fair or not fair. She said she would plead with the members of the Board to come of one accord on a system that should be workable.

Dr. Hezekiah Brown of 106 Terrilynn Way stated that he has attended almost every public forum. He said according to the agenda, the Governance Committee's charge was to increase the number of minorities on the Board of Commissioners. He stated that this was a charge and based on what he heard at the last meeting he does not think the charge was accomplished if it meant increasing minorities on the Board of Commissioners. He said he stands here tonight as an African American and has lived a long time and has seen a lot during his lifetime. He said there is nothing new that is being said or being done, as it has all been done before. He stated that he lived in a place where they burned a cross two doors from where he lived. He said it was not done to hurt anybody, but to frighten everybody, and his community refused to come out of their houses after dark for weeks after that. Dr. Brown said he wrote an article in the newspaper and he received a large number of calls from the Caucasian community agreeing with him, but then he read some of the blogs in the newspaper saying it was wrong to do what is being attempted here. He stated that the title of his article was *It Is Impossible to Legislate An Attitude Particularly around Racial Harmony and Tolerance*. He said it is hard for the board to legislate that because of feelings. He stated that it is necessary to appeal for basic fairness. He said if he was talking about fairness in terms of the amount of individuals in Pasquotank County, he would not be saying there should be two African American County Commissioners, but would be asking for three to equate the 40% of African Americans to the total population in the county. He said the African American community, in appealing for fairness, is asking for two. He stated that so far asking for two has not been accepted under any plan, and it is his understanding that tonight the 2-2-2-1 plan will be rejected based on the fact that it does not meet certain needs. He said there is another plan called the 4-2-1 plan that he understands is acceptable. He suggested if it will work and is legal to approve it just to give the appearance of fairness. Dr. Brown said if two African Americans are selected to serve on the Board it gives the appearance of fairness and

satisfies a lot of Caucasians and African Americans. He stated that most of the people who showed up at each of the public forums were in favor of a change in the makeup of the Board. He said the people who didn't show up voted yes. He said if the Board does not do something, the African American community has no alternative but to appeal to the courts. Dr. Brown stated that there are so many insignificant issues that create a divide in the community and it doesn't have to be like that. He quoted Rodney King after all the turmoil he went through, "Why can't we all just get along?"

Mr. Keith Rivers of 104 Grandview Drive stated that over a year ago the NAACP presented a restructuring plan to the Board of Commissioners. The goal was to create a healthy political system to give minorities the ability to elect candidates of their choice and to inspire people to run for office. Mr. Rivers said it is very amazing that this year on August 24 will be the 50th anniversary of the march on Washington, DC, and here Pasquotank County is 50 years later still discussing issues of fairness. He stated when looking at Pasquotank County which is 38.6% African Americans, there have been African Americans who have run for office who have had crossover appeal. He said there have been African Americans who have sat on the Board of Commissioners and could not win re-election. He stated that all of the facts and figures show that Pasquotank County is a racially polarized voting county. The Board of Commissioners appointed a Governance Committee to go out and hear the voice of the community and he thinks that has been clear and has not been drawn along racial lines. He said there are many Caucasians as well as African Americans who have said there needs to be a restructuring of the Board. He stated that it is the NAACP's position that they will support a plan that will achieve that goal and not spend another year and a half saying what should be done. Mr. Rivers said it is about fair play and doing what is right. He noted that President Lyndon B. Johnson, when he signed the 1965 Voting Rights Act, knew he would not be re-elected, but he knew that it was the right thing to do. He stated that President Johnson said that, "Vote is the most powerful instrument ever designed by man to fight injustices". Mr. Rivers said the Board's vote on whether or not to restructure the Board will be standing the test of time. He appealed to the Board to be on the right side of history.

Dr. Johnny Houston stated that he believes firmly in fairness and it's not just about race. He said there will be no change unless people in positions of power, such as County Commissioners, look at things through a broad lens. He stated that many will say that white people are not in favor of this plan, however the room is not full of them saying not to do it. He said a lot of white people are okay with the plan but do not want to take a stand because they feel they must be in concert with the members of the Board on certain things in order to get other things. He stated that the Board represents all of Pasquotank County, so to defeat this measure tonight would not be defeating it based on what their constituents have said because their constituents are here. He said it would be a question of conscience for elected leaders as to what they think is fair. Dr. Houston stated that it is not new that a lot of people are repulsed by some of the things that are happening in the U.S. House of Representatives, in the North Carolina Legislature and the Governor's Office as being repressive action not representing many of the people. He said he would hope that many would take the line that when they take the oath of office to represent everyone, they will stand up and say they are going to do their job with malice toward none, with charity for all, and fairness to do what is right. He stated that the vote tonight is not a vote on the 2-2-2-1 plan or the 4-2-1 plan, but is a vote for or against diversity on the Board. He said as long as the current plan is in place, there will not be diversity. He said there was no outcry at the four public forums not to restructure, so why would the Board not do it. He said for the Board to not do it, he sees it as the Board being against diversity and not caring what the consequences will be. He appealed to the Board to make a decision.

2. 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 the following items recommended by the Finance Committee today: 1) Approval of late elderly exclusion applications; 2) Approval to close-out Jail construction fund; 3) Approval to write-off two uncollectible landfill accounts; and 4) Approval of funding request from Arts of the Albemarle.

Motion was made by Joe Winslow, seconded by Gary White to amend the agenda to add the four items recommended by the Finance Committee to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes of July 15, July 18 and July 23, 2013 Commissioner Meetings
 - b. Approval of Tax Releases, Refunds and Solid Waste Fee Releases
- The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax releases, refunds and solid waste fee releases:

Releases:

	County	City	
1.	Christie Louise Askew	114.70	96.58
2.	Christopher B. Craft	148.99	
3.	Travis James Niehaus	104.84	
4.	Travis James Niehaus	141.79	
5.	Stephanie Lynne Vick	165.35	
6.	Fredrick Pendleton Small	109.31	
7.	Alexander Graham Bell	111.54	94.05
8.	Douglas Martin Grove	115.88	
9.	Jesse Lee Hoewisch	147.19	
10.	Michael Lawrence Christian	213.09	
11.	Christopher Walter Teall	289.23	
12.	Christina Marie Gall	140.06	
13.	Kay Beauty Supply	134.39	107.29
14.	Mid Atlantic Christian University	151.65	126.08
15.	Toby Michael Stewart	113.58	
16.	John L. Allen	144.00	
17.	Vernon Godfrey, Sr.	166.90	
18.	Connie Marie Wrenn	352.50	222.75
19.	Menville Brooksie Kuhl	603.56	420.01
20.	Linda B. Skinner	392.82	254.43
21.	Ryan David McClaine	140.06	
22.	Kyra Nicole Van Echo	149.85	124.64
23.	Luke Thomas Piecuch	141.86	118.26
24.	George K. & Tammy G. Gordon	352.50	
25.	Everett R. & Virginia C. Slagle	352.50	
26.	Charles B. Branch	352.50	
27.	Senie White	393.77	
28.	Jerry Thomas & Bonnie C. Brite	398.49	
29.	Kenneth W. Cobb	218.78	
30.	Heidemarie Cavins	352.50	222.75
31.	Neil Bryan Waller	352.50	222.75
32.	Delores F. & Terrilynn Hudson	149.31	
33.	Sarah C. Ormond	555.99	

Refund:

1.	Holly Luther Brothers		148.18
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Solid Waste Releases:

Owner's Name	Parcel ID Number	Reason for Release
Mildred Cooper Hunt	P98-19	House burned in 2009
Harry W. Reed III	P127-10	House vacant since 2003
Talley Cole Derome	24-B-13	House vacant since 6/2012
Rubenia S. Williams	56-B-8	House not livable
Eunice Mitchell Heirs	P123-12	House not livable
Charlie E. & Blanche Price	32-H-12B	House not livable
Tony & Cordelia G. Spence	P112-96	House torn down
Norman L. Warden, Jr.	12-G-19	Apartment not livable
Glenn Ross Prof LLC	10-G-151	House is no longer a duplex
Benjamin & Eva Franklin	P58-16	House vacant since 1/2012
Billie & Corrine White	P107-18B	Lot vacant since 2009
Eleanor Joy Reid & Janet Reid Saunders	P127-16	House vacant since 3 years prior to removal August 2012

c. Approval of Budget Amendment

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

E911 Surcharge Funds			
Increase	022.0220.4255.02	NC 911 PSAP	341,030.00
Increase	022.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	258,970.00
Increase	022.4328.5500.00	Capital Outlay	600,000.00

d. Approval to Write-Off Five Uncollectible Landfill Accounts

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve the write-off of the following landfill accounts:

Name on Account	Account Balance	Reason for Write-Off
D&W Roofing	\$ 76.59	Left town; cannot locate; debt is 10 years old
Sawyer's Woodworking	\$747.84	Bankruptcy; we have received all we are to get; received a percentage of the amount due
River City Auction	\$ 85.20	Deceased; no estate
Camryn's Lawn Care	\$105.47	Balance represents late fees; all tickets have been paid; no longer in business.
Kelly Construction	\$180.00	Balance represents late fees; paid all tickets; request adjustment of remaining late fees

e. Approval to Sell Vacant Lot on Nixonton Road

The Board had previously proposed to accept an offer of \$250 from Vestel Pendleton for a vacant lot on Nixonton Road and to advertise for upset bids. The offer has been advertised and no additional bids were received during the 10-day upset bid period. The Board can now approve the sale of the lot for \$250.

f. Approval of Late Elderly Exclusion Applications

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following two late elderly exclusion applications:

Applicant	Exclusion	Tax Amount	Solid Waste	Total Excluded
Rita Ferebee	\$72,150	\$454.55	\$69.00	\$523.55
Lillie Ambrose	\$39,850	\$251.06	\$69.00	\$320.06

g. Approval of Close-Out of Jail Construction Fund

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve the close-out of the Jail Construction Fund with the remaining cash balance of \$836.59 to be transferred to the General Fund.

h. Approval of Funding Request from Arts of the Albemarle

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve funding in the amount of \$15,000 for Arts of the Albemarle for the 2013-14 fiscal year from occupancy tax proceeds. An application for tourism funds will be submitted to the Tourism Development Authority.

Motion was made by Joe Winslow, seconded by Gary White 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.	Keri Clarisa Gochenour	21.35	21.43
2.	Keri Clarisa Fry	91.51	73.63
3.	Brandon Anthony Fry	95.05	76.28
4.	George Nowell	32.95	25.73
5.	Jan Louise Nygaard	22.01	17.57

6.	Ronald Ray Winslow	8.69	58.51
7.	Sharon Huffon Hewitt		27.62
8.	George B. Brannon	35.15	19.50
9.	Maurice Whitehurst	24.82	
10.	William Shelton Hale, Sr.	54.99	
11.	Tamika Danielle Frost	51.06	
12.	Murphy Oil USA #7417	11.53	9.06
13.	CIT Tech Financial Serv	19.62	
14.	Williams Scotsman Inc.	15.94	
15.	Lennie Lewis Hughes	59.99	47.89
16.	Robert Wayne Zurface	27.85	
17.	John W. & Linda Hudson	8.44	
18.	Channel One LLC	15.50	
19.	Hilda Beals Schanding	24.37	19.45
20.	Juliu Johnson		36.00
21.	Kenneth Alvin Sweatman	13.08	10.44
22.	Joseph Thomas Johnston	44.83	
23.	Gladys M. Stuart	66.80	
24.	V. Thomas Forehand, Jr.	8.19	
25.	Richard Edwin Andreasen	3.22	
26.	Troy Donell Gillard, Jr.	27.09	21.63
27.	Kay M. Weeks	73.44	
28.	Loyce W. Twiford	15.61	
29.	Sheila Caressa Jordan	8.93	7.13
30.	Tyra L. Newell III		11.48
31.	Ian Shane Maclure	62.37	54.80
32.	Christopher Marvin Altman	81.34	69.94
33.	Wendy Karen McLean	3.16	2.52
34.	Destiny Denise Brookins	63.24	
35.	Traci Forbes Seymour	50.53	
36.	Kevin David Garcia	32.55	30.99
37.	Shirley Mercer Hughes	4.84	3.86
38.	Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County	4.59	
39.	Hamid Nur Sinclair	83.95	
40.	Big Lots Stores Inc. #1891	55.31	43.46
41.	Earl T. Whitley	13.36	10.50
42.	Pathways to Life, Inc.	81.96	64.40
43.	J&D Auto Sales	46.46	36.51
44.	East Coast Communications	7.57	5.94
45.	Iberdrola Renewables LLC	45.39	
46.	Chelsea Ann Crist	44.92	
47.	Robert Wayne Smith	7.81	6.24
48.	Jacob Dante Wycoff	11.35	
49.	Tracey Lynn Burgess	18.10	
50.	Ted Leonard Lawson	41.23	
51.	David Wayne Twine	66.96	
52.	David Wayne Twine	15.75	16.81
53.	Jack Eugene Patton	63.86	
54.	Letitia Yvette Ishman	6.08	4.85
55.	Stephen Charles Lilly	8.43	
56.	Mark Alan Griepentrog	1.40	
57.	Noel Thomas Mateo	33.48	
58.	Brian Scott Clark	45.82	
59.	Kenneth Mark Irsik	10.97	
60.	Steven George Schaffer	96.04	
61.	Steven George Schaffer	35.09	
62.	Kara Cullipher Stoughton	44.64	
63.	Blackwell Memorial Church		36.00
64.	Wilhemia Green Bogue	27.40	21.88
65.	Jann Louk Hewitt	1.61	

4. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION FROM THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

Chairman Dixon stated that a recommendation has been submitted by the Governance Committee to accept the 2-2-2-1 plan with the right to discuss and amend and include whatever the Commissioners would like to add or delete or whatever plan they may have themselves. He said he would entertain a motion to accept the 2-2-2-1 plan that has been recommended.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by William Sterritt to accept the 2-2-2-1 plan as recommended by the Governance Committee.

Discussion followed and Commissioner Lloyd Griffin stated that Dr. Brown had mentioned during his comments that this proposal has been dead on arrival, but that the 4-2-1 plan had been discussed and would work. Commissioner Griffin said the only discussion about the 4-2-1 plan was from staff. He added that the only discussion in the community was about the 2-2-2-1 plan and there was not discussion in the community about a 4-2-1 plan which was presented by Mr. Rivers over a year ago. He said there was never an opportunity for that plan to be worked out but staff did come up with some numbers at that time for the four districts which would stay intact and two super districts. He stated that most of the minority population lives in the city with concentration around the university area and it has been demonstrated through the city elections that a minority can be elected as mayor. He said since there has been discussion about the 4-2-1 plan, it should be presented as this moves forward.

Commissioner William Sterritt stated that the motion is whether or not the Board is going to accept the 2-2-2-1 plan and he would like to have that decided first and then if necessary the Board can go to alternative issues.

Chairman Dixon said all that is being discussed now is why or why not Commissioners can or cannot support the 2-2-2-1 plan.

Commissioner Cecil Perry stated that in the beginning he said he would support any plan that this Board would support that will change the structure of the Board. He said when the 4-2-1 plan was first presented, it was said that no one would support it, so that is how the 2-2-2-1 plan came about. He stated that it has been mentioned that the city has elected African American mayors. He said only two African Americans have been elected as mayor in all these years. He noted that the 4-2-1 plan would guarantee one African American on the Board of Commissioners and possibly elect another African American. He stated that the 2-2-2-1 plan would take two people from three districts and have one at-large instead of the current three at-large Commissioners. He said if the numbers can be arranged to increase the minority district to 55% by dividing the county into three districts, it would be much safer than the 4-2-1 plan. He stated that this is why he supports the 2-2-2-1 plan. He added that he would support whatever plan the Board approves tonight because he believes there should be a change in the number of African Americans who sit on the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Sterritt said that he was Chairman of the Governance Committee and took on that responsibility very seriously. He stated that they had four nice meetings in the community, two at African American churches, one at the Weeksville Lions Club, and one at the Nixonton Ruritan Club. He said the attendance at the four forums was a little less than what was expected, but the committee was very pleased with the comments. He stated that by and large the comments were very favorable for adoption of the 2-2-2-1 plan. He told a story about how some things have changed in North Carolina since he was a COA basketball coach in 1964 and recruited the first African American student to be a member of his basketball team. He pointed out the challenges faced by this player. He stated that institutions have changed since that time. Commissioner Sterritt went on to say that this is not 1964 and the 2-2-2-1 plan is a change for the people of this county. He said this plan needs to be adopted for equality, opportunity and fairness and that is what has been promoted throughout the four forums. He stated that the public cannot vote on this, but he is appealing to fellow Commissioners to put this plan in action out of fairness.

Commissioner Frankie Meads said as a County Commissioner who recently won the seat that was previously held by a 12-year veteran, it was not because he used race or because he was white, but because he was consistent in doing what he thought the people wanted him to do. He said the other members of the Board said he could not win. He stated that he believes Pasquotank County currently has a fair system and any individual in Pasquotank County who is

consistent in running the race can win. He said if he can win anyone can win a seat on the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Perry said one of the things that needs to be told is that in each of the districts being talked about there are approximately 10,000 people and approximately 8,000 of those are white and 2,000 are black. He stated that Mr. Meads could probably split up the vote of the 8,000 whites, but black folks who live in the districts cannot overcome 8,000 whites as long as people vote for color.

Chairman Dixon asked for a vote on the motion to adopt the 2-2-2-1 plan.

The motion to adopt the 2-2-2-1 plan failed by a two to five margin with Commissioners Perry and Sterritt voting in favor of the motion and Commissioners Dixon, Winslow, Griffin, White and Meads voting against the motion.

Chairman Dixon said there are three other options based on what he has seen.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Lloyd Griffin to accept the 4-2-1 plan.

Discussion followed and Commissioner Perry said the 4-2-1 is the next best plan and he is going for whatever he can get.

Commissioner Gary White asked for an explanation of the 4-2-1 plan.

Commissioner Griffin explained that when redistricting was done last year, it created the four equal districts that we have now. He said Mr. Perry's district is about 67% minority, while his is about 48% minority. He said during that time it was brought to the committee that the 4-2-1 plan had numbers that would work. The Southern Coalition reviewed the plan and looked at several options. Commissioner Griffin said the NAACP gave the Board an opportunity a year ago to look at the 4-2-1 plan and he believes the Board should consider it because it does create some fairness.

Commissioner White asked if the 4-2-1 plan would comply with the 1985 consent order and Department of Justice requirements.

County Attorney Mike Cox said the 1985 agreement provided that one seat would have to be at least a 55% majority minority and he believes the 4-2-1 plan would comply with that. He stated that the consent order may have to be amended and there would be additional work needed beyond that.

Commissioner Griffin advised that guidelines state that the seat of incumbents should be preserved and maintained during the redistricting process. He said the 2-2-2-1 plan would remove him from his seat and would also disrupt the other three existing districts.

Commissioner Perry said when discussing fundamental fairness he doesn't care about his seat if it will help the people in Pasquotank County achieve fundamental fairness. He stated that everyone is here to make decisions on what is best for Pasquotank County and not for themselves. He said he will support whatever will increase the number of African American Commissioners in Pasquotank County.

Commissioner Sterritt said he would like for Mr. Rivers to review the 4-2-1 plan.

Mr. Rivers explained that the 4-2-1 plan would retain the current four single member districts intact and does not displace any incumbents. The current system has three at-large seats. The 4-2-1 plan would retain one of the countywide at-large seats and would create one at-large seat for the two city districts and one at-large seat for the two county districts. The city at-large district would have about a 53% minority population.

Commissioner Meads said as important as this vote is, the Board has not talked about the 4-2-1 plan and he does not think it should be voted on tonight to allow time for more study by the Board.

The motion to adopt the 4-2-1 restructuring plan carried by a four to three vote with Commissioners Dixon, Griffin, Perry and Sterritt voting in favor of the plan and Commissioners Meads, White and Winslow voting against the plan.

Dr. Hezekiah Brown thanked those who voted for the plan on behalf of the community. He stated that he thinks the Board did the right thing.

Chairman Dixon thanked the Governance Committee for its work during this long drawn out process. He said the committee's work is not done yet, as there are a couple more projects the committee needs to work on.

Commissioner Perry thanked the Governance Committee and also thanked the Board for allowing this process. He said he feels good about the progress the Board has made. He stated that this community can thrive and grow if everyone learns to get along and work together.

The Chairman called a brief recess after which the meeting was reconvened.

5. BERGMAN-FILARECKI DEVELOPMENT LLC TAX ISSUE:
County Attorney Mike Cox advised that he received a phone call from the attorney for the Bergman-Filarecki Development at the eleventh hour requesting a delay of this issue. He said there is some disagreement as to whether they can present evidence on this matter. He stated that this will be resolved by the next meeting.

Motion was made by Joe Winslow, seconded by Gary White to table the Bergman-Filarecki Development LLC tax issue until the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DANGEROUS DOG ORDINANCE:
Mr. Cox stated that the Board addressed the changes to the Dangerous Dog Ordinance at the joint city-county meeting last week, however he wanted to discuss it with the Board before a public hearing is called. He said the most significant change is that the Board of Commissioners would no longer be the Animal Control Board, but rather there would be a joint city-county Animal Control Board. He stated that the definitions are changing a little in an effort to make the city and the county ordinances the same.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Cecil Perry to call for a public hearing on the amended Dangerous Dog Ordinance at the next regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORT FROM INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER:
Interim County Manager Rodney Bunch reported that the Business Incentive Plan that was presented at the joint city-county meeting will be presented to the Committee of 100 this Wednesday for feedback and then it will come back to the two boards. He said the two managers and the economic developer met last week as requested at the joint meeting and made a few changes to the proposed plan.

8. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY:
County Attorney Mike Cox reported that he attended the County Attorneys' Summer Conference last weekend and received some good legislative updates. He said he attended a panel discussion regarding pro se litigants who represent themselves, a seminar on emergency management, and ethics and substance abuse classes.

9. CALENDAR:
The Clerk reviewed the calendar of upcoming meetings and events.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE:
Commissioner Perry stated that the Appointments Committee would like to nominate the following individuals for appointment to the Library Board: Randy Cartwright to fill the unexpired term of Eudora Harvey who is no longer able to serve due to health reasons; and Rowena Robey and Scarlett Newbern to replace two Camden County appointees. Final approval of these appointments would be held over until the next meeting.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Gary White to nominate Randy Cartwright, Rowena Robey and Scarlett Newbern to the Library Board with final approval at the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dixon commented that the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners sits as an ex officio member of the Library Board on the Board's behalf. He said it was recommended at the last meeting that since Camden County is no longer a part of the Library that the bylaws and the board structure be looked at and possibly changed.

Commissioner Perry advised that the Appointments Committee would also recommend that the Board approve the slate of appointees as recommended and submitted by the JCPC.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Joe Winslow to approve the slate of appointees to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council as recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

11. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner William Sterritt said he neglected to mention in his comments earlier that the Community Relations Committee was a viable part of the Governance Committee's process of studying restructuring of the Board. He said he would like for the minutes to reflect that the Board is very appreciative of Dr. Hunsberger who is the Chairman of the CRC, Dr. Hezekiah Brown, and many other individuals that were here tonight who helped. He stated that citizen involvement is very important.

Commissioner Sterritt stated that Thursday he will be attending the city-county Recreation Advisory Committee meeting. He said he received a call early this morning from a citizen who was upset about the erosion that had occurred along the edge of the dock at the Sawmill Park boat ramp where someone almost fell in a hole and could have broken a leg. He stated that Parks & Recreation staff will be looking at how to repair the problem.

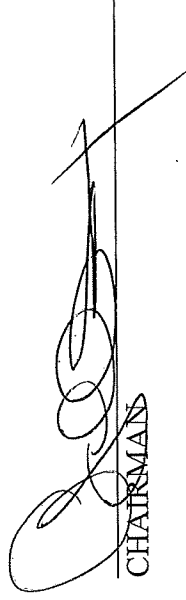
Commissioner Gary White stated that things are moving along with the new EMS administration building. Mr. Bunch said all of the exterior work has been done and a well was drilled last week because there was not an adequate water supply.

Commissioner White reported that the Water Committee will be meeting this Wednesday. He said the Water Superintendent is working with property owners on possible locations for the development of three wells to replace five that are no longer producing. He noted that these are wells for the Weeksville water plant.

Commissioner Frankie Meads asked if there has been any progress on the hospital lease agreement with Sentara since the Hospital Board has basically turned the hospital over to Sentara. Chairman Dixon responded that there has not been any movement at this time. He said he can assure everyone that the rumor he and Hospital Board Chairman David Twiddy are trying to sabotage the deal is false. He added that the attorneys are handling the process at this point.

Chairman Dixon reported that he attended the opening of the fourth COA campus last Friday. He said it is a wonderful facility and will benefit all of the counties in Northeastern North Carolina. He noted that the cost of the building was \$9.5 million.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Frankie Meads to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.


CHAIRMAN


CLERK TO THE BOARD