

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 16, 2021**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, August 16, 2021 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lloyd E. Griffin, III, Chairman
Charles H. Jordan, Vice-Chairman
Cecil Perry
Sean Lavin
William "Bill" Sterritt
Jonathan Meads

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barry Overman

OTHERS PRESENT: Sparty Hammett, County Manager
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Lloyd Griffin. Vice-Chairman Jordan gave the invocation and Commissioner Sean Lavin led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Griffin welcomed those in attendance.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Vice-Chairman Jordan requested that the agenda be amended to add the following items recommended by the Finance Committee to the Consent Agenda: 1) Approval to hire Tharrington Smith, LLP for Redistricting Legal Services, with associated Budget Amendment; 2) Approval of Branding/Logo Implementation, with associated Budget Amendment; and 3) Approval of temporary relocation of Boys & Girls Club.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Sean Lavin to amend the agenda to add Items #1-3 to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

2. COVID-19 UPDATE:

Chairman Griffin called on Amy Underhill, Albemarle Regional Health Services Health Education Supervisor and Public Information Officer to update the Board on Covid-19. Ms. Underhill provided a PowerPoint presentation and provided an update on Covid-19. She said we are seeing the peak and riding the wave of the next part of this Covid-19 pandemic. She said for us to move forward, we need to encourage others to get vaccinated. If individuals have concerns or questions regarding the vaccine, they should contact the local health department. She noted that this past weekend, a third dose (booster) was approved for those who are immunocompromised.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Griffin recognized George Hague of 2321 Delia Drive to address the Board. Mr. Hague spoke in support of Sheriff Wooten and his officers. He trusts in the conclusions of the District Attorney, SBI, and FBI. He said a lot of misinformation is going around in the community and the time has come for Pasquotank to put the civil unrest behind us and bring unity to the community so we can move forward.

Chairman Griffin recognized Carl Pickell of 2362 Delia Drive to address the Board. Mr. Pickell spoke in support of law enforcement and the Board. He feels the District Attorney did a great job handling the Brown shooting. The DA knows what happened and the NAACP and Black Lives Matters know what happened too. He said they call everyone racist when they are the real racist, and they only believe in law and order when it is in their favor. He praised County Manager Hammett and said he is the best County Manager Pasquotank County has had in his 81 years of life.

Chairman Griffin recognized Doug Lane of Okisko Road to address the Board. Mr. Lane said he does not want a total ban on deer dog hunting. What he wants is to live in peace and quiet on his own property, without outside interference. He also wants the threat the hunters bring to him to

go away because it causes him undo stress, which is not good for him. He said if he were to sell his land, state law requires him to disclose defects. He asked, "When I write down that three months out of the year, other people come and use my land, do you think I will get fair market value.

Chairman Griffin recognized Wade Reid of Body Road to address the Board. Mr. Reid spoke regarding dog hunters trespassing. He owns 450 acres of land in one continuous block in Mt. Hermon, Nixonton Township. For the last 30 years, he has not been able to leave his home on a weekend or a holiday because hunters turn their dogs out and the dogs cause his cows to run. He is liable if they get in the road, and they tear down his fences. He asked that the County make a local ordinance to protect the taxpaying part of our population. He has been attacked on his property and thousands of roofing nails were put on his property all because hunters were told to leave. His family has been threatened.

Chairman Griffin recognized Andrea Rovenski, address unknown to address the Board. Ms. Rovenski asked if anyone has noticed that the water in Elizabeth City tastes really bad. She stated that it has a large amount of Chloroform, Chlorine, and lead in it. She said money should be invested in fixing this problem instead of giving the Sheriff's Department a raise.

Chairman Griffin recognized Sarah Wenninger of 101 G. Bateman Drive to address the Board. Ms. Wenninger noted that she attended the gun ordinance meeting a couple days ago. She said no action was taken at the meeting. She has videos of her neighbors shooting at a dirt mound, which is allowable, but she would like a backstop requirement. She doesn't need written permission from all of her neighbors for them to shoot their weapons, but she really wants a backstop so her children can play safely. She requested another meeting on the County's gun ordinance.

Chairman Griffin recognized Louise Brickhouse of Main Street Ext. to address the Board. Ms. Brickhouse spoke in support law enforcement. She said they need to be upheld and recognized. We need to treat each and every person with the same respect, but we must respect our law enforcement in order to keep our city and county safe.

Chairman Griffin recognized Dana Baily of 901 Raleigh Street to address the Board. Ms. Bailey said when we are considering candidates for Sheriff, she thinks we need to investigate and look into their files to see what kind of problems they have had within their jobs. She said she is specifically talking about Eddie Graham. She stated that she personally filed a complaint against him at one point, and there have been other issues within his job performance that need to be considered.

Chairman Griffin recognized Clifton Ballance of 741 Mt. Hermon Road to address the Board. Mr. Ballance thanked the Board for what they do. He spoke in support of Sheriff Tommy Wooten. He said the Sheriff is trying. He asked the courts to release the tapes. People have been very rude and disrespectful to him. The City Council has divided our community. They have backstabbed the County, degraded the Sheriff's Department, and helped the NAACP. He said if we want unity, we must start at the top and bring it down. He attended an event Sunday where the Sheriff spoke very genuinely. He never brought any one person down in this community. As soon as they left the church, there were videos stating how they chanted and spoke against people. He said when Mr. Pickell was speaking members of the audience were being adamantly rude to him. They don't want to work together. It's one agenda - theirs or no ones. He said he wants to bring the community together.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. *Approval of Minutes of August 2, 2021 Commissioner Meeting*

b. *Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds*

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax releases, tax refunds, solid waste fee releases, and solid waste refund:

Tax Releases

		County	City
1.	Sarah Elizabeth Smith	144.04	
2.	Sarah Elizabeth Smith	132.92	
3.	Sarah Elizabeth Smith	125.95	
4.	Sarah Elizabeth Smith	119.17	
5.	Bryan Mitchell Douglas	19,584.00	
6.	Pasquotank Properties	144.00	
7.	Mc Mor Development LLC	171.02	
8.	KI & Sun Realty Corp.	138.60	
9.	Glenna & Clara S. Goin Jr.	101.87	
10.	Glenna & Clara S. Goin Jr.	113.78	
11.	Glenna & Clara S. Goin Jr.	106.84	
12.	Glenna & Clara S. Goin Jr.	101.47	

Tax Refunds

		County	City
1.	Margery Muntaz Coulssn-Clark	102.19	86.93
2.	William Stephenson Kannan	160.48	136.51
3.	Robin Jones Taylor	144.70	123.09
4.	Doris K. Tadlock	253.03	156.55
5.	Jacob Brim Wemmering		117.38

Solid Waste Fee Releases

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Margaret Barham	P96-42	Vacant
2.	Patricia Cherry	P23-S-30	Vacant
3.	Janice & Dennis Dance	P63-44A	Vacant
4.	Janice Poole & Hattie Poole	P95-21	Vacant
5.	Charles Jr. & Carolyn Everett	21-F-10--11A	Vacant
6.	Jean Ferebee & Vivian Gibson	P112-32	Vacant
7.	Jason Christopher Lyle & Jenny Goetz	P78-4	Vacant
8.	Christine C. Graham	P38-17	Vacant
9.	Shirley Griffin	P80-84A	Vacant
10.	Annette Griswell Etal	P93-19	Vacant
11.	Cindy Hall	P12A-53	Vacant
12.	Henry L. & Connie C. Hassell	P141-20	Vacant
13.	Mary D. Holley Etal	P34-22	Vacant
14.	Lindsey Lee James	28-D-7	Vacant
15.	Francina Jeffers	32-G-3	Vacant
16.	Francina Jeffers	50-B-10	Vacant
17.	Na Tran Jordan	P132A-146	Vacant
18.	Elise Landrum	P91-33	Vacant
19.	Gussie R. Layden	P119-75	Vacant
20.	H. T. Mullen Jr.	P139-11	Vacant
21.	Pasquotank County	P120A-105	Vacant
22.	Pasquotank County	P8A-47	Vacant
23.	Pasquotank County	P120A-9	Vacant
24.	George Scott Estate	32-H-3	Vacant
25.	Isaac M. & Pearl J. Sutton	P67-29	Vacant
26.	Pearl Sutton	P98-12	Vacant
27.	William A. Walton Etal	P59-10	Vacant
28.	Norman L. Warden Jr.	12-G-19	Vacant
29.	Richard M. White	P142B-43,44,45	Vacant

Solid Waste Fee Refund

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Refund
1.	Mary O & John W. F. Gibson Life Est	P63-62	Vacant

c. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

Sheriff

Increase	010.0240.4380.25	Federal Grant	30,281.00
Increase	010.4310.5600.00	Grant Funds	30,281.00

School Resource Officer

Increase	010.0600.4950.00	School Security	3,000.00
Increase	010.4915.5310.00	Travel	3,000.00

Non-Departmental

Increase	010.0230.4370.00	State Grant	82,250.00
Increase	010.4195.5600.14	COA Boardwalk	82,250.00

d. Approval of Request to Establish Part-time Truck Driver Position – Solid Waste

At the July 21st Solid Waste Committee meeting, Director of Solid Waste, Brad Gardner, presented a request to establish a part-time truck driver position for covering roll-off and/or transfer truck driver shifts. The position would work 1,000 hours per year or less, at a pay rate in the range of \$18 to \$20 per hour, with no benefits. The position would function similar to the “substitute” site attendants for the Solid Waste Convenience Sites. The following would be the positives of creating the position:

- Reduction of overtime for the existing drivers;
- Increase morale of full-time staff;
- Position might be attractive to a recent retiree; and
- Swing driver would help cover when full-time staff have vacation and sick leave, extra waste tonnage, resignations, etc.

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the part-time Truck Driver position using budgeted Overtime funds.

e. Approval to Hire Tharrington Smith, LLP for Redistricting Legal Services, and Associated Budget Amendment

The Finance Committee has recommended hiring Tharrington Smith, LLP for a not to exceed amount of \$17,500 to provide Redistricting legal services, and approval of associated budget amendment.

Non-Departmental

Decrease	010.6900.5991.00	Contingency	17,500.00
Increase	010.4195.5440.00	Contracted Services	17,500.00

Redistricting legal services

f. Approval of Branding/Logo Implementation, and Associated Budget Amendment

The Finance Committee has recommended approval to establish a \$15,000 Branding Implementation budget using Contingency Funds.

Non-Departmental

Decrease	010.6900.5991.00	Contingency	15,000.00
Increase	010.4195.5261.00	Departmental Supplies	15,000.00

Branding Implementation

g. Approval of Temporary Relocation of Boys & Girls Club

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a temporary lease with the Boys & Girls Club for space at the Edgewood Shopping Center at no cost through February 28, 2022. The Boys and Girls Club would be responsible for all utility costs.

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

5. APPROVAL OF SYSTEM TRANSFER AGREEMENT FOR THE COUNTY TO PURCHASE THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY PORTION OF THE SOUTH MILLS WATER ASSOCIATION:

County Attorney Mike Cox explained that what is before the Board tonight is the core document that will allow the County to purchase approximately 1,100 water customers from South Mills Water Association. He stated that there is a roughly \$1.4 million USDA loan that South Mills currently has that will be paid off by the County. There is also a grant with the USDA for \$350,000. The USDA is requiring the County to assume the grant requirements from 1999, which are pretty standard. He said tonight the Board needs to approve the agreement and the assumption of the USDA grant. He said staff would like to have a meeting at the Newland Fire Department in September to give an update of the process to citizens.

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Cecil Perry to approve the System Transfer Agreement, the grant assumption, and authorize the Chairman, Manager, and Attorney to sign any necessary documents to transfer the customers from the South Mills Water Association to Pasquotank County. The motion carried unanimously.

6. COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS:

County Manager Hammett updated the Board on the Confederate Monument relocation. Over the last two to three weeks he has had discussions with Superior Crane regarding concerns they had with moving the monument. The Superior Cranes representative indicated that they had received threatening phone calls and were concerned with potential complications. He said he assured them that staff would have a law enforcement presence during the move and thought that they were moving forward. He called back to check on the status and was told that they would not be able to move the monument due to the concerns. Finally, Superior Crane called him back and said that they would have to increase their cost from \$28,000 to \$75,000 due to the threatening phone calls they received and the current climate in Elizabeth City.

As a result, staff will have to obtain more bids, since the original bids were obtained in September, 2020. He stated that he is reaching out to the original bidders and also some other companies that have recently moved monuments in North Carolina and Virginia, and he will provide the results of the bids at our September 13th meeting.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Meads said he did not attend any committee meetings in the last few weeks. He said he attended the NCACC Annual Conference where he learned a lot, and got to know some commissioners much better.

Commissioner Sterritt handed each commissioner a piece of paper with SPCA on it. He asked each of them to put what the letters stand for on the paper. He noted that only one was correct. He attended an SPCA meeting this week. He praised the members on the committee, and the work they do. He said traditionally the No Ball Ball event raises approximately \$40,000 per year. He hopes that the Board will continue to fund them generously.

Commissioner Lavin continues to work with the Workforce Development Board as Chairman of the Leadership Committee. Unemployment numbers are decent, but it's really because so many people have come out of the job market. He has been working with the committee to develop their action plans. They are targeting September to review and approve those. He volunteered for Coast Guard Day. Additionally, he attended the NCACC Annual Conference this weekend. He said it was informative to say the least. The facetime with other local representatives was valuable. He is looking forward to the United Way Kickoff Luncheon this week.

Commissioner Perry attended the NCACC Annual Conference. He said it was the best participation he has seen in a very long time. Many people were recognized. He hopes in the future our Board recommends individuals to be recognized because Pasquotank County does many great things. He noted that Pitt County had a large amount of national recognition this year. He thought it was great that our Board's younger commissioners participated so they can take the lead in years to come.

Vice-Chairman Jordan volunteered at Coast Guard Day. He represented the Board at the Bijoux Vibes ribbon cutting. He attended the NCACC Annual Conference. He says he attended some great sessions at the conference. It was great to talk with fellow commissioners. Trillium has picked up some additional counties. They recently added Halifax County.

Chairman Griffin attended the Coast Guard Event. The City was reestablished as a Coast Guard City. He noted that the Coast Guard Base employees about 2,300 employees, which is a large economic impact on our community. He attended a couple ribbon cuttings over the past couple weeks. He reported that the new census numbers are in. He thanked Commissioner Lavin for taking over the leadership role on the Workforce Development Board.

There being nothing further to come before the Board;

Motion was made by Jonathan Meads, seconded by Sean Lavin to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD