

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
OCTOBER 2, 2023**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, October 2, 2023 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles H. Jordan, Chairman
Barry Overman, Vice-Chairman
Lloyd E. Griffin, III
Sean Lavin
Jonathan Meads
Sam Davis, III
Clifford Shaw

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Sparty Hammett, County Manager
John Shannon, Assistant County Manager
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Mike Barclift, Management Fellow
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

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

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Vice-Chairman Barry Overman requested that the agenda be amended to add/remove the following items to the agenda: 1) Approval of Proposed Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule; 2) Approval of Meads Pool Lease; 3) Approval of Contract Extension with Tetra Tech; 4) Approval of Dates for Community Meetings; 5) Consideration of Renovation of Blount House for Syringe Service Program, and 6) Recommendations by Appointments Committee.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Sean Lavin to amend the agenda to add Items #1-4 to the Consent Agenda, add Item #5 to New Business, and remove Item #6 from the Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

2. PRESENTATION ON 4-H TEEN COUNCIL PARTICIPATION AT THE NCACC ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

Chairman Jordan called on Daniel Haines, President of the Pasquotank County 4-H Teen Council to present. Chairman Jordan said he had the opportunity to meet Daniel at the last two NCACC Conferences and he is a fine young man.

Daniel stated that he is a member of Pasquotank 4-H, and it is a pleasure to be here tonight. He explained that 4-H is a youth development organization, which encourages people to explore new areas of interest and to build leadership skills. Some of the areas that 4-H has to offer, include leadership through opportunities that include office positions and public speaking competitions. They also have STEM and agriculture opportunities, to include horse shows, livestock, and so much more. 4-H also focuses on community service. They like to give back to their community and to put their hands to larger service.

Daniel said 4-H has allowed him as a person to grow as a leader as well. He has shown livestock with 4-H, served on the County Team Council and he has been a district officer with 4-H. Recently, he attended Youth Voice, which is an event sponsored by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. They were able to learn their personality traits through the True Colors Test and participate in group activities, such as the Helium Stick Challenge and a county commissioner budget game, where they had to learn to make some sacrifices in order to make their budget work. These activities not only taught them about themselves, but how to better work with others, and a little bit about what county commissioners do. He said he is thankful for the opportunity and he looks forward to continuing the 4-H experience this year.

The Board thanked Daniel for representing the County well at the conference and let him know that they are very proud of him for his contributions to the County. The Board wished him well in all his future endeavors.

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. *Approval of Minutes of August 21, 2023 Commissioner Meeting*

b. *Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds*

The Tax Office has recommended approval of the following tax releases and refunds:

Tax Releases

	Taxpayer	County	City
1.	United Rentals North America	401.97	382.52
2.	Don S. Williams Sr.	162.44	154.58
3.	Don S. Williams Sr.	163.68	155.76
4.	Don S. Williams Sr.	163.68	155.76
5.	Don S. Williams Sr.	162.44	154.58
6.	Don S. Williams Sr.	163.68	155.76
7.	Don S. Williams Sr.	163.68	155.76
8.	Don S. Williams Sr.	162.44	154.58
9.	Don S. Williams Sr.	162.44	154.58
10.	Fred & Helen Ellinwood	941.32	

Solid Waste Fee Releases

	Owner's Name	Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Captain Medina Dukes Jones	26-H-6	Vacant
2.	Callister Robinson Etal	37-B-48	Vacant
3.	Callister Robinson Etal	40-A-449	Vacant
4.	Mary O. & John W. Gibson Life Est	P63-62	Vacant
5.	Dorothy T. Mercer	P140-9	Vacant
6.	Shirley B. Griffin	P80-84A	Vacant
7.	John R. Etheridge Heirs	P63-40-1	Vacant
8.	Sam T. Williams Heirs	P77-3	Vacant
9.	Doris Rountree	P119A-8	Vacant
10.	Charles & April Holman	P88-16-64	Vacant
11.	Mary Anderson	P120A-57	Vacant
12.	Vivian Butts Etal	P142-15	Vacant
13.	Sherman D & Jennifer Underwood	P136-26	Vacant
14.	Alton C. Brickhouse	38-B-147	Vacant
15.	Na Tran Jordan	P132A-146	Vacant
16.	Janice & Dennis Dance	P63-44A	Vacant
17.	City of E C	24-B-6	Vacant
18.	Edward Bailey Hollomon & Jo Anne Jezard	P142B-58	Vacant
19.	Mattie Lee Davis	31-C- 2	Vacant
20.	Charlie E. & Blanche Price	32-H-12B	Vacant
21.	Charlie E. Price	P98-3	Vacant
22.	C E & Blanche Price	29-C-24	Vacant
23.	Charlie E. & Blanche Price	55-E-25,26	Vacant
24.	Margery Coulson-Clark	56-F-6	Vacant
25.	Cierra Godfrey	56-D-7	Vacant
26.	Hudson Hinton	50-N-6	Vacant
27.	Mary E. Walker	58-C-115-116	Vacant
28.	Herman Ray Meads Jr.	P58-50	Vacant
29.	Margaret B. Barham	P96-42	Vacant
30.	Linda Bridgeman Etal	P6-26	Vacant
31.	Melba Bridgeman	P7-16	Vacant
32.	Nolan M. Bundy	P6-5	Vacant

33.	Nolan M. Bundy	P7-17	Vacant
34.	Donald R. Damron	P139-96	Vacant
35.	Genevia Kellogg Etal	P95-24	Vacant
36.	Jacqueline D. Hill	55-A-15	Vacant
37.	Jacqueline D. Hill	P9-8	Vacant
38.	Bobbie Moore & Miles Harris	P120-193	Vacant
39.	Bobbie G. Moore	76-H-14A	Vacant
40.	Ronald Wayne & Kay W. Weeks	P111-22	Vacant
41.	Vernon Sylvester Etal	P122A-233	Vacant

c. Approval of Budget Amendment

The Finance Office has requested approval of the following budget amendment:

Landfill/Transfer Station

Increase	065.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	156,923.00
Increase	065.7430.5500.00	Capital Outlay	156,923.00

d. Approval of Additional Holiday Closing Days for Pasquotank County Library

The Finance Committee has recommended approval to close the Pasquotank County Library on Saturdays when the County has a Friday or Monday holiday.

e. Approval of Certification Pay for Animal Control Officers

In North Carolina, euthanasia at shelters can only be performed by a Veterinarian or a Certified Euthanasia Technician (CET). To become a CET, a person must complete an application, pass a background check, receive training from a certified instructor, pass a written test, pass a practical examination, and work at a shelter. One of the recommendation from the Animal Services Study was to have CET certified Animal Control Officers augment the SPCA shelter staff CETs, thereby lowering the cost of euthanizing seriously injured animals after Shelter operating hours or other times when shelter staff CETs are unavailable. The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a 10% certification pay while Animal Control Officers maintain their CET certifications, which also requires the Officers to work in a part-time capacity for the Animal Shelter. The certification pay will be retroactive to when the officers became certified.

f. Proposal for United Way

The County will soon begin its 2023 United Way Campaign. During previous campaigns, as an incentive for employees to contribute to the United Way, the Board agreed to grant eight hours of vacation time to one employee whose name was drawn from the names of all employees who contributed a minimum of \$48 to the United Way. It is being requested that the Board approve this incentive again for 2023. Last year, employees contributed a total of \$12,219 to the United Way.

g. Approval of Proposed Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule

The Elizabeth City Council adopted the new Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule at their meeting on September 25, 2023, and has requested the Board approve same. The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the new Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Parks and Recreation Fee Schedule.

h. Approval of Meads Pool Lease

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a new one-year lease for Meads Pool with Meads Pool '22 (Walter Copeland) at a cost of \$1.

i. Approval of Contract Extension with Tetra Tech

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a one-year contract extension with Tetra Tech, Inc. for disaster monitoring and recovery services in the aftermath of storms.

j. Approval of Dates for Community Meetings

The Finance Committee has recommended the following three meetings be conducted:

- Thursday, October 19th – Pasquotank County Courthouse
- Monday, October 30 – Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church
- Tuesday, November 14th – Weeksville Lions Club

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

4. CONSIDERATION OF RENOVATION OF BLOUNT HOUSE FOR SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAM:

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of utilizing \$150,000 of the Opioid Settlement Funds to renovate the Blount House as a location for the Syringe Service Program, pending inspection/evaluation of the building to meet code requirements for the use.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Sam Davis to approve utilizing \$150,000 of the Opioid Settlement Funds to renovate the Blount House as a location for the Syringe Service. The motion carried 5 to 2, with Commissioners Lavin and Meads voting in opposition.

5. REPORTS FROM ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER:

Assistant County Manager John Shannon reported that Jeffrey Brooks with North Carolina Department of Information Technology will be at the Board's next meeting to discuss the CAB grant (Completing Access to Broadband). He said if anyone has questions they should have them available for Mr. Brooks to answer.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

On September 12th, Commissioner Shaw visited P.W. Moore Elementary School's family dinner. On September 13th, he attended the SPCA Board meeting. The Board is very happy with the outcome of the feral/community cat study and subsequent changes. On September 15th, the Animal Control Board heard two cases. On September 21st, he attended the Jail Board meeting. On September 27th, he attended the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council meeting. On September 28th, he attended the TDA meeting. Lastly, on September 29th, he attended the 2023 ECSU Hall of Fame Inductee event at the K.E. White Graduate Center. He said Jamie Turner, who has worked with the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Parks and Recreation for 25 years, was one of the inductees.

Commissioner Davis attended the Sago's Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening. He said it was a very nice event, with a strong showing of citizens. On September 20th, he attended the Solid Waste/Landfill Committee meeting. They are making progress on the tire disposal issue. He attended the Human Relations Commission meeting. He said it is his understanding that they are not a formal commission yet because they have not received their state training. He requested that the County Manager facilitate the training since there appears to be enough members appointed at this time.

Commissioner Meads attended the Utilities Committee meeting and received updates on current projects.

Commissioner Lavin stated that the Workforce Development Board concluded its audit period, and has received their findings from the state. They are now allowed to get their funding allocation for this year, which will help put adult and youth workers back into the workforce and help with some job training for our residents. He attended the Elizabeth City Downtown Inc. meeting. They are knee-deep in a strategic planning period. He said they have made great strides in the downtown community and they are now looking at what direction they should go in the future.

Commissioner Griffin said the Airport Authority requested some significant funding in the state budget, but their request was not funded. Hopefully, they can ask again during the short session. The funds are important for some of the opportunities they are trying to create at the airport. A new piece of asphalt has been laid and is being used as a taxiway and ramp. Elizabeth City State University is flying five to six airplanes, seven to eight hours a day, training their aviation students.

Vice-Chairman Overman attended the COA Finance Committee meeting. He attended the Public Safety meeting. They had the best turnout they have had since COVID. He participated in the United Way Day of Caring. He and others worked at the Boys Club. He said the Weeksville VFD will be having a BBQ chicken fundraiser this Saturday to raise funds for needed equipment and supplies for the fire station.

Chairman Jordan attended a town hall meeting on Mental Health at Elizabeth City State University. Two state representatives were in attendance, as well as a representative from ECSU. He said mental health is certainly a concern in our state. The representatives were there to hear from the public what their concerns are, so they could work on improving how we take care of mental health patients in North Carolina. He attended the Ambrose Furniture Ribbon Cutting. They have recently remodeled their store. He attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting. He attended the Solid Waste/Landfill Committee meeting and the Jail Board meeting. He served as a judge for the Bra-ha-ha event which was held to raise money to be used to provide mammograms and related breast care services to under- and uninsured members of our community. He attended a dinner for parents and staff at P.W. Moore Elementary School. He attended the Sago's Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening. He reminded the Board that there are a lot of ribbon cuttings. He thanked those who have helped him out and said he may be asking others to help in the future. He said after the state budget passed, he received a notice from Trillium that Medicaid Expansion will begin in December.

Motion was made by Clifford Shaw, seconded by Sam Davis to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD