

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
NOVEMBER 6, 2023**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, November 6, 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 Sam Davis gave the invocation and Commissioner Jonathan Meads 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 the following item to the Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of Sole Source of R/O Plant Expansion to Harn R/O Systems Inc.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Jonathan Meads to amend the agenda to add Items #1 to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

2. USE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS TO ADDRESS THE OPIOID CRISIS:

County Manager Hammett stated that he met Don Holman in 2013 in Columbia, SC, where he was the Assistant County Administrator for Richland County. His best friend Terry from high school had started doing IT consulting work with Fort Jackson, and introduced him to Don who was also working as an IT Consultant for Fort Jackson.

Mr. Hammett said he and Don became good friends and have stayed in touch, even after he ended the consulting engagement at Fort Jackson. Both Don and Terry's sons became addicted to opioids. Terry's son was the lucky one. He stayed alive long enough to get help. Thankfully, his third inpatient rehab was successful, and he has been clean for several years. Unfortunately, Don's son, Garrett, didn't make it to recovery.

Mr. Hammett explained that the goal of harm reduction strategies, such as Syringe Service Programs, is to keep opioid dependent persons alive long enough to offer services and strategies to avoid overdose until they are prepared to work toward recovery from their dependency.

Staff introduced Mr. Holman by showing a video of an event in 2017 at the White House where former First Lady Melania Trump specifically mentioned having conversations with Mr. Holman about the opioid crisis, and his son Garrett Holman's overdose death. She said "Don Holman talked to me about his son Garrett, who took medication for ADHD and suffered from depression and anxiety. He explained that social media played a part in his son's erratic moods and behaviors. Garrett started to buy synthetic opioids online, and self-medicated for his depression, passing away from an overdose just eight days before his 21st birthday. Don Holman taught me that the stigma of drug addiction must be normalized, and that talking about it is the only way to do that".

Mr. Holman said the video you just saw was from six years ago. He stated that he lost his son in February of 2017. From the time his son was introduced to illegal, illicit, synthetic opioids to his

death was only three months. He discovered that he could order them on online and have them developed by mail. He noted that the number of overdoses is worse today than it was six years ago. Unfortunately, when he lost his son it changed him forever, and he never misses an opportunity to try to help another parent not go through what he went through.

Mr. Holman stated that harm reduction is a tough topic. He said he supports Naloxone, Fentanyl test strips, or any other opportunity to give someone who is struggling a door to open. He said his son was like many other young men his age - he played sports and he had girlfriends.

Mr. Holman stated that he grew up in Hertford. He went to Lynchburg, which is where his son was born. On the outside, everything looked like it was great, so you never know who is affected. A lot of children are exposed by peer pressure, but anyone can go down this path. Someone could have their wisdom teeth taken out or have an injury and this happen. He said many of you may have experience this or know someone who has. He spoke to an elderly group of people in Georgetown one time where a guy asked him, "why does it matter if I'm addicted", and he did not have a good answer for him. It is everywhere and it is gray. It is so different for each person. Mr. Holman said there is so much in a person's life that leads them to suicide or addiction. It could be a medical procedure, your home environment, or mental illness.

Mr. Holman said he understands that there is a debate about whether a needle exchange program is good for Elizabeth City. He knows it sounds terrible. When we hear someone say needle exchange, it forces all of us to think about somebody injecting drugs, which is not pretty. We don't want to think that there is somebody in our community right now that is using a dirty needle or injecting something in them because they have no choice but to do that. He said harm reduction is tough, but keeping somebody alive long enough that they can themselves see that they need help is worth it. There is more to a needle exchange program. It's an opportunity to meet with a counselor who can break into that person and give them just a little bit of insight that what they are doing is going to kill them. By the time someone is injecting with needles, it is pretty devastating. If they keep on that path, they are going to overdose, especially today with Fentanyl laced drugs. Fentanyl is poison. He encouraged the audience to stop him and ask any questions they may have.

He said the Board needs to do what is best for their community. He feels that everyone has done their homework to say that this is a good use of the funds. He said he would have done anything to keep his son alive. If he was told they could lock him in jail, he would have taken him there, especially once he became an adult, because when a child becomes 18, they make their own decisions. If this creates an opportunity for just one child to come in and get help, it is well worth it. The flip side of that is nobody is going to wake up and say, I heard you can get free needles down the street, let's go shoot heroin.

Commissioner Meads asked Mr. Holman how old his son was. Mr. Holman answered; he was 20, just eight days before his 21st birthday. He said there is a lot more to this. It's like your toolbox at home. You don't have just one tool. You have a bunch of them. The exchange program is just one tool. Not everybody will use it, but for the people who do need it, it's nice to know that it is there and it has the potential to save a lot of people.

Commissioner Davis thanked Mr. Holman for coming and having the courage to come and tell the Board his story. He can't imagine being in his shoes.

Commissioner Griffin said the state and federal government are all for multiple choices. Many of which the County is already doing, including PORT. He asked Mr. Holman what he believes is the next thing in the tool box that the County needs to do. Mr. Holman said he works with a foundation, where he met Victoria's Voice out of Orlando. They lost their child. They do a lot of prevention. He feels you can't do enough prevention. He went to a PTA meeting one time in Arlington. The discussion went around about what the school could do without bothering the parents. He said he feels the parents should be onboard, because sometimes the parents are the problem. As a parent, you do everything for your kid, because you want them to have everything. You don't realize sometimes what you are doing is actually causing them stress and a sense of need for something else. Parents need to be educated, not just to recognize it and blame somebody else, but to ask themselves if they are pushing their child to hard in a sport or to an academic level that may be putting them in a position to make them vulnerable to think that they want to try something.

Mr. Holman said needle exchange is just one piece of it. Someone has gone down a long path before they are shooting heroin. In today's world addiction is very different. You can give someone a Tylenol, which has Tylenol written on it, but it may actually be crushed up with something else, with enough Fentanyl in it to kill you. Kids these days are getting pills that look like a prescription drug, but they are being manufactured in Mexico, with the wrong materials coming from China. It is a moneymaker and cheap way out for cartels. They don't mind killing people because those who are doing drugs will flock to a drug dealer who killed somebody because they have the "strong stuff". It is a mentality that is very hard to accept.

Commissioner Griffin said back in the day you heard about shot houses in New York spreading Hepatitis and Aids, but today we are talking about very different drugs. The opioid settlement funds are to be used for the new, current health crisis issue. He sees the needle exchange as a conduit to get addicts in to provide them with resources.

Mr. Holman said people who are shooting up or taking drugs don't always see themselves as having a problem. One month before he lost his son, he forced him into a 30 day treatment program. His son fought him the whole way. It was not until the very end when they let him go that it was starting to kick in. The needle exchange is just one tool in the toolbox to get someone who is injecting into an environment where they can do it safely, which he knows sounds terrible, but they are going to do it anyway. The hope is that when they come in there for that one thing, they will be exposed to something that they have not been exposed to in a while and a lightbulb will go off. The program will not help everybody. Ten people may come in and only one person will be helped. He asked, "What is the price on human life is?"

Mr. Holman said nobody wants to talk about it until it affects them personally, then, that's all they want to talk about. When he lost his son, he went crazy. He got angry and mad and he made a commitment to meet with the President. He said he got to the president's wife through Chris Christy. He spoke with another dad in New Jersey who lost his son to heroin overdose. There is a whole community out there. He noted that politics are hard, but this is somewhat of a bipartisan issue. You may not hear that all the time. He went to the White House recently and met with a group to acknowledge Overdose Awareness Day. When it comes to this topic, people do want to come together. The Biden administration has put a lot of money out there. He said they plan to send a million dollars to each state. He said he applauds the Board for what they are doing to look into it, because it will make a difference. It will be community by community. There is no one sweep that will wipe out this crisis. It's not getting any better and more people are dying today.

Chairman Jordan thanked Mr. Holman for coming and providing his story. He knows it must be hard for him to bring up the story again.

3. NC CHILD REPORT:

Chairman Jordan called on Kelvin Stallings, Director of Community Engagement at NC Child to present an overview of the Pasquotank County Data Card. Mr. Stallings introduced Michael Cooper, Senior Director of Advocacy for NC Child who accompanied him. He said the goal of NC Child is to reach all 100 counties in 2024-2025. Pasquotank County is especially important to him because he is a proud graduate of Elizabeth City State University.

Mr. Stallings said NC Child is working to build a strong North Carolina policy by advancing policies to insure that all children, no matter their race, ethnicity, or place of birth have the opportunity to thrive. He said they do that through advocacy at the General Assembly, community engagement, and research and data, which includes the county data cards which they will present this evening.

Mr. Stallings said the cards they will be presenting are broken down into five areas: A Strong Start, Family Economic Security, Nurturing Homes & Communities, High-Quality Education, and Health & Wellness. The cards provide a snapshot of each indicator and how each indicator has changed over time with the base year, and the most recent data that is available, with the state demographics branch of the Office of Budget Management, the Center for Health Statistics for the NC DHSS, the NC Department of Public Safety, the NC Department of Public Instruction, and the US Census Bureau.

Mr. Stallings said the statistics they will be providing are from 2021, which reflect the effects of the pandemic. He noted that there is often a lag in the availability of data. The statistics are compiled to provide a single source of information on the data that affects children.

Since the last time the county data card was published, the median family income has increased to a little over \$56,000. The percentage of children living in food insecure households has decreased. He said it is certainly good to see that every measure of family economic security in the county data card has increased year over year, because research shows that improving a family's economic circumstance has positive impacts on many of the other measures of child wellbeing that they track on the cards. Also noteworthy, especially for Pasquotank County, is the change in income since before Covid 19, compared to the state's change in median household income. They saw family median incomes rise slightly more than the median income at the state level, compared to pre-pandemic levels. There were also improvements on the number of women who receive prenatal care, the number of residents with bachelor's degrees, fewer children living in poor or low-income housing, and improved reading proficiency. Another takeaway that they saw was the increase in children assessed for abuse and neglect, but there are a multitude of varying factors that could have led to that statistic. Overall, the county, state, and federal investments that were made during the pandemic, as a part of Covid relief, had a positive impact on a lot of people's lives in Pasquotank County, especially children.

Mr. Stallings said he would also like to highlight something that was not in the county data card, which is the youth mental health crisis. Last spring, they collaborated with the North Carolina Institute of Medicine and produced the North Carolina Child Health Report Card. It had a special focus on youth mental health. He stated that we all know that this is not a new crisis. Long before pandemic school closures across the nation, clinicians were already seeing alarming trends across many indicators of child and adolescent mental health. The crisis is compounded by factors like lack of access to healthcare, food insecurity, and economic security in the household, which makes it deeply linked to many of the indicators that they see in their data cards.

Mr. Stallings said that more than one in ten children ages 3-17 in North Carolina had a diagnosis of depression or anxiety in 2020 – a 49% increase from 2016. Suicide became the leading cause of death for children ages 10-14 in 2019. One of five North Carolina high school students reported seriously considering attempting suicide in 2021, up from 16% in 2017. One in 10 reported actually making an attempt. He said some of these statistics are hard to hear, but to be honest, we all know that it is not surprising.

Mr. Stallings told the Board that they know better than he does what the children in our county need, but it is certain that they can reflect on the data, and become innovative on how to best serve the children of North Carolina and the children of Pasquotank County. He stated that some advancements have been made, but there is still a lot of work to be done.

Commissioner Griffin asked how they will engage to reduce the mental health numbers. Mr. Stallings said he was glad that he asked that questions, because it is one of the biggest pushes of them making it to all 100 counties. Over the past couple of months, they have been having roundtables with community leaders, such as the Chamber of Commerce presidents, individuals from DSS, and mental health professions to collaborate about how the mental health crisis can best be addressed. Commissioner Griffin asked Chairman Jordan, who sits on the Trillium Health Board, if this is being discussed at their meetings. Chairman Jordan said he is not hearing that much about the youth right now, but there is at least one facility here in the area that is dealing with children's mental health. Mr. Cooper said he is not aware, but they can follow-up and check to see what resources are available.

Mr. Cooper said one of the most significant things we can do is sound the alarm about this right now. He stated that they gave grades for all the various issue of health, and they gave youth mental health an F, because this is a flashing, red light emergency. He said the opioid crisis has been going on in North Carolina for over a decade and it has taken them a while to begin to address it in a comprehensive and proper manner, but we are at the beginning of a youth mental health crisis that we are going to be dealing with for a decade or so, and we have to start thinking about it. There is no one reason why it is going on, and there is probably not one quick fix. We know that smart phones and social media are a big part of it. We also know that kids being at home and isolated during the pandemic was a big part of it. He said we know that a lot of the

challenges we are going through these days are combining to cause this, but we can begin to do things to address it, whether it's getting more school nurses and counselors, getting more mental health treatment, or getting more afterschool programs and things to do to get them out of the house and get involved and have more responsibility. He stated that they will continue to work and encouraged the Board to stay in touch. They have done the report card for over a decade now, but they want to come out and meet with communities on the ground and talk to local leaders because that is how they can build relationships that can advance these issues.

Chairman Jordan asked if they have had any contact with Trillium. He knows that Trillium has some programs dealing with youth. Mr. Stallings said he has not yet. They have been gearing up and visiting communities across the state and are trying to get partners and community leaders together and address it in a holistic fashion, because it is a crisis that they definitely want to get ahead of. Mr. Cooper said they will be holding a summit in April at the state level in Raleigh, which will have a lot of healthcare folks there such as Blue Cross, and they will follow-up with Trillium.

Commissioner Griffin asked why they are just now coming to counties if they have been doing this for a decade. Mr. Cooper said this predates both he and Mr. Stallings. He explained that he has been with NC Child for about six months and Mr. Stallings is on month three. He said they want to be out in the counties. They have been to Wilmington, Goldsboro, Rocky Mount, Greensboro, Asheville, and Silva recently. He explained that NC Child has been around about 30 years and doing research and data, but they want it to not be just information that sits on a shelf, they want to actually make use of it and come out and address some of the issues. The majority of kids in the state of North Carolina and local counties are not proficient in reading at a third grade level and that causes challenges for the rest of their lives. Those are things that they want to start to get ahead of and deal with, but they can't do that if they are sitting in Raleigh and not coming out and meeting folks.

Commissioner Meads stated that there is a great documentary regarding social media on Netflix. It talks about social media and how it is affecting our young people. He urged everyone to watch it, because it is very eye opening.

Commissioner Davis said he was a Commissioner 24 years ago, and was on the Mental Health Board. Our legislators from that time until now have cut the budget for mental health consistently. He stated that he would love to see the data that shows what has happened to the rural communities. He noted that they have funded the urban areas, but they have defunded the rural areas. Our little counties are the ones that are suffering and seeing an increase rate in suicides, because we don't have anyone to help or talk to. We no longer have school psychologist for students to go talk to, and that is a really bad situation that they need to be spanked for. He has a real hurt heart over that, because he has grandchildren in the school system and he certainly wants to see them succeed and be able to have all the help they need.

Chairman Jordan thanked them for coming and said he will share the information they provided with the Trillium Health Board, because he would like for the two of them to connect to help provide services to our youth.

4. COMMENTS BY FRANK ROBERTS:

Chairman Jordan called on Frank Roberts of 491 Okisko Road to address the Board. Mr. Roberts spoke in opposition of a needle exchange program in Pasquotank County. He feels it would encourage drug dealers to come to the area where the syringes are exchanged. He said the courts need to quit settling felony cases and giving plea bargains.

5. COMMENTS BY JILL REID:

Chairman Jordan called on Jill Reid of 577 Body Road to address the Board. Ms. Reid spoke regarding her opposition of a syringe exchange program in Pasquotank County. She said her husband is diabetic and has to buy and dispose of his own syringes. She suggested that Commissioner Overman and County Manager Hammett buy the syringes and distribute them at their homes.

6. COMMENTS BY CAROL ROLLING:

Chairman Jordan called on Carol Rolling of 910 W. Church Street to address the Board. Ms. Rolling spoke regarding her concerns about locating a syringe exchange program near a school.

She has spoken with individuals who live in the community who do not want a syringe exchange program in their neighborhood. She also suggested that the Board televise their meetings so that the public who cannot come to meetings will be more informed.

7. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

At the last meeting, the Board accepted the nomination of Samuel John Davis to the ABC Board. One additional application was received during the two week layover. The Board considered the appointment.

Motion was made by Jonathan Meads, seconded by Sean Lavin to excuse Commissioner Davis due to a conflict of interest. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Sean Lavin to appoint Samuel John Davis to the ABC Board to fill the unexpired term of Tom Tilley. The motion carried unanimously.

8. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of October 16, 2023 Commissioner Meeting

b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds

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

Tax Refunds

	Taxpayer	County	City
1.	Catherine Tinkham Christian	101.08	186.59
2.	Dwayne Dean Lowe	196.08	186.59
3.	Sandra Vroman Parsons (Estate)	124.19	
4.	Latoria Shinay White	124.36	118.34

Solid Waste Fee Releases

	Owner's Name	Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Gina W. Richard C. Albertson	P134-54	Vacant
2.	Gina W. Richard C. Albertson	P134-54A	Vacant
3.	Louvenia Figgs & Harvey Barnes	55-F-11	Vacant
4.	Henry Johnathan Hernandez Cebreira	11-E-90	Vacant
5.	Fred L. & Sylvia J. Haney	P14A-45	Vacant
6.	Robin James & Cornichia Middleton	11-E-73	Vacant
7.	Carl T. & Carol Winkler Waybright	P133A-76&77	Vacant
8.	Carl T. & Carol Winkler Waybright	P133-5	Vacant
9.	Verline E. Williams	P80-4A	Vacant
10.	Verline E. Williams	P112-9	Vacant

c. Approval of Sole Source of R/O Plant Expansion to Harn R/O Systems Inc.

The Utilities Committee approved the sole source of the third RO train at the RO Plant to Harn R/O to expand the capacity from 2MGD to 3MGD for \$1,358,000. Harn R/O was the supplier of the two original trains in 2008. The Finance Committee has recommended approval to sole source the third train to Harn R/O Systems Inc. for \$1,358,000.

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS BY APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE:

Vice-Chairman Overman stated that the Appointments Committee met today and has made the following recommendation:

- a) Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce – Reappoint Charles Jordan to an additional term.
- b) Elizabeth City Planning Commission – Reappoint Gary White to an additional term.
- c) Newland Water Management & Watershed Improvement Advisory Board – Reappoint Linwood Williams to an additional term.
- d) Parks and Recreation Board – Reappoint Charles Jordan to an additional term.
- e) Personnel Appeals Committee – Reappoint Dana Cobb to an additional term.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Sam Davis to approve the reappointments as recommended by the Appointments Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Lavin attended the Newland Community Meeting, which was very well attended. He said it was impressive hearing County staff talk about all the accomplishments and big wins for the County, including the Newland Park. He feels there are a lot of opportunities for the community to really get involved with Newland Park.

Commissioner Lavin said when reflecting back on the job that County staff is doing, and specifically with some of the operational surveys, he feels one of the groups that can really benefit from some consulting, operationally with the County and maybe implementing some operational excellence initiatives, is the Elizabeth City Pasquotank County School System, specifically with the facilities and maintenance. He said they seem to struggle year after year with being able to complete projects and updates to schools, and continuing upkeep of their infrastructure, whether its score boards for athletic fields or classrooms. With population shifting around the County, he wonders if there are excess buildings and facilities. He thinks that is something that we should look into and try to get some assistance over to our friends.

Commissioner Griffin said his meeting will start again next week.

Commissioner Shaw attended a ribbon cutting at Elizabeth City Health and Rehabilitation along with the Chairman. On October 19th, he attended the Community Meeting at the Pasquotank County Courthouse. On October 25th, he attended the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council meeting. On October 26th, he attended the TDA meeting. On October 27th, he attended the Fall Festival at J.C. Sawyer Elementary School. On October 27th, he attended the Royal Suite ribbon cutting along with Chairman Jordan. On October 27th, he attended the 63rd Annual Craftsman's Fair at the Museum of the Albemarle. On October 30th, he attended the Community Meeting at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church in Newland. On November 1st he attended the Pasquotank Ministers Conference at P.W. Moore Elementary School along with Chairman Jordan. On November 3rd, he attended a ribbon cutting at Mid Atlantic Christian University along with Chairman Jordan and Commissioner Griffin. They celebrated their new Heritage Hall. On November 3rd, he toured the SOULS Feed Ministry.

Commissioner Davis stated that he had a slow month. He upgraded his real estate license. One of the things they talked about was the oncoming movement of artificial intelligence and how much it is affecting our way of life, politics, and our community. He stated that you can ask artificial intelligence many things such as give me a list of things to eat, or a list of things to help me lose weight, but you cannot ask it to give me things to help me stop doing drugs, and you can't ask it to give me things to help me find a way to combat a situation like we have going on in our community. Somebody is going to have to make some tough decisions, and unfortunately it falls on the Board. He attended the DSS Board meeting this morning. He thanked the citizens in attendance for coming out and speaking, and said their opinions are valuable. He reminded those in attendance that the County has commissions and boards that have vacancies on them that need to be filled. He said he would greatly appreciate it if they would be willing to give their time to apply and serve on some of the boards that are open and help the Board make our community a better place to live.

Commissioner Meads attended the Albemarle Regional Health Services Board meeting. He said in the past, many citizens who received a bill for inspection of their septic system, questioned whether a septic inspection was performed. He understands their concerns, because they are paying a \$50 inspection fee every year, and they want to know that it was performed and working properly. Director Stoops informed the Health Board that they have come up with a solution for making citizens aware when septic inspections have been performed. The inspector will leave a ticket on the citizens door informing them that an inspector has performed their septic system inspection.

Commissioner Meads said he attended the ceremonial check presentation where Representative Bill Ward presented the County with a \$21.8 million check. He also attended the State Health Summit and the Bulls & BBQ event in Currituck County. He informed the Board that he has completed his ethics training.

Vice-Chairman Overman attended the COA Board of Trustees meeting.

Vice-Chairman Overman said he feels the need to defend himself, as he was singled out. He said we just heard the two gentlemen talking about the harm that social media can cause. Being a victim of social media himself, and seeing snapshots that people have sent to him, is really sad. He said he has been in Christian ministry all of his adult life. He has probably sung at every church in this County. He went in the fire service in 1986 and served 30 years with the city and is now with the state fire marshal's office. He went in to be a fireman. In the last year, he has performed CPR more times than he ever did in the first 34 years of his career. He has administered more Narcan than he cares to remember. He has given Narcan three times to the same person, because he kept dying.

Vice-Chairman Overman said it amazes him that someone would have the audacity to say Barry brought this program to the community. It is an example of how people put words in your mouth. He appreciates the ones who called him directly rather than putting it on Facebook. Some called him and some met him for coffee. All of them had a different take on it. One was going to send a letter to the editor, but said he was glad that he called him first before he sent the letter. He thanked him for calling him, because if you know where he stands on something, you will better understand why he votes the way he does. He said he has a 16 year old who wants to be a fireman. He goes to every call with him. When they go on an EMS call, he has to sit in the truck because the last thing he wants him to do is to be stuck by a needle when he is doing CPR on somebody who just overdosed.

Vice-Chairman Overman stated that it is so sad to him that someone would think that he would be for a program that is so confrontational, if it was not a program to help people, which is what his life's mission has been. He said if this is some way to get people help, then he will keep right on voting for it, and he will take the heat for it. He stated that the Board is here to make tough decisions. They are not always popular. His words were taken out of context when he compared it to another program which was not popular, but decisions had to be made. He asked anyone who does not understand where he stands to please call him so he can tell them, and he will listen. He is done arguing and is exhausted. He didn't work his whole life to be 55 years old and people think that he is a certain way when it's not in his heart.

Chairman Jordan attended the photo-op with Representative Bill Ward. He also attended the EDC Board meeting and the Regional Library Board. He said for you that are not aware, the Pasquotank County Librarian also serves as the Regional Director. A lot of great things are happening with our library system. He attended the two community meetings and the Drainage Committee meeting. They are working very hard to improve the drainage situation throughout the County. He attended the Trillium Governing Board meeting. The hot issue currently is reducing the number of LMOs in the state from six to four, which could involve Trillium taking on East Point and Sandhill. He attended the Health Summit at ECSU and the Royal Suites ribbon cutting. A lot of new businesses are opening in our community. He attended the Minister's Council Meeting. He explained that the Minister's Council has been part of the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools for years, but during the pandemic it died down. They are trying to get it started again. School officials, parents, and people in the community come together and talk about what is happening in the public schools and they pray together. He also attended the MACU ribbon cutting and the PW Moore Fall Festival.

There being nothing further to come before the Board;

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Sam Davis to adjourn the meeting.
The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD