

**Meeting Schedule
Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners
Monday, December 4, 2023
Pasquotank County Courthouse**

3:00 PM – Building & Grounds Committee – Courtroom C
4:00 PM – Finance Committee Meeting – Courtroom C
Immediately following Finance – Appointments Committee – Courtroom C
6:00 PM – County Commissioners Meeting – Courtroom C

Commissioner Meeting Agenda Summary

1. 6:00 PM – Call to Order in Courtroom C

At the first meeting in December of each year, the Board is organized for the following twelve months with the selection of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The meeting will be called to order by the Clerk to the Board and after the invocation and pledge of allegiance; the meeting will be opened with a nomination for Chairman. Upon selection of the Chairman, the meeting will be turned over to the newly-elected Chairman, who will then call for the selection of Vice-Chairman.

2. Invocation

3. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

4. Organization of the Board of Commissioners

5. Amendments to the Agenda

6. Public Comments/Public Hearings:

A. Public Hearing on RR 23-01

RR 23-01 is a Rezoning Request by Mauricio J. Juarez to rezone property identified as Tax Map P116-5B and located at 119 Corporate Drive from C-1, Commercial to I-1, Industrial. The rezoning request is for an existing parcel 14.69 +/- acres in size. The Planning Board reviewed this request on November 16, 2023 and recommended approval (6-0). Attached is a copy of the staff review and recommendations.

7. Old Business:

A. Opioid Settlement Funds – Renovation of Blount House as Syringe Service Program

The Memorandum of Agreement governing the use of Opioid Settlement Funds includes a list of twelve approved strategies for combatting the Opioid Crisis. Note - none of the funds can be spent on anything but an approved Opioid project. The funds may be used only on programs that serve and support persons with Opioid Use Disorder. They cannot be spent on policing or any type of punitive measure.

An Opioid Settlement Funds Advisory Committee of stakeholders was created and met monthly for over a year to discuss the twelve strategies in detail. The Advisory Committee included representatives from Sentara Albemarle Medical Center, PORT Health, Elizabeth City Police Department, Pasquotank Sheriff's Office, Vertex South, Albemarle District Jail, Pasquotank County Correctional Institution, Albemarle Regional Health Services, the Department of Social Services, Pasquotank-Camden EMS, as well as others.

The Advisory Committee unanimously recommended a Syringe Service Program (SSP) as the initial project using the Opioid Settlement Funds. On October 2, 2023, the Board of Commissioners voted 5-2 to renovate the Blount House located at 713 Roanoke Avenue as an SSP location for the initial project using the Opioid Settlement Funds. This vote supported the recommendation of the subject matter experts most knowledgeable of the Opioid Crisis in Pasquotank County.

SSPs are an impactful, highly recommended strategy to combat the Opioid Crisis and save lives. Pasquotank County is lagging behind the majority of North Carolina counties with this strategy. There are SSPs in 58 of 100 North Carolina counties.

There are many reasons why the Blount House was recommended as the location for a Pasquotank County SSP:

- The County already owns the property, which is adjacent to both the Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) and the Pasquotank County Department of Social Services (DSS).
- ARHS, DSS, and a Syringe Service Program have client pools that overlap. By collaborating, useful referrals from one program to the next could have been made.
- Client visits to the Syringe Service Program could have coincided with their visits to ARHS and DSS.
- Many SSPs are located at health departments including Hyde County (population 4,593) and Beaufort County (population 43,933).
- The Blount House is adjacent to communities which include potential clients. Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Medical Services records indicate opioid-involved calls in several neighborhoods on all sides of this location.
- SSPs provide protection for communities vulnerable to contaminated waste - canvassing and anecdotal evidence established the necessity of cleaning medical waste from the local sidewalks, ditches, and sandboxes in the surrounding area (a primary goal of any SSP is to clean up hazardous medical waste from its community).

However, staff have been notified of concerns raised by citizens in the area of the proposed program. As a result, staff recommends elimination of consideration of renovating the Blount House as a Syringe Service Program. This recommendation is based solely on the concerns of the citizens in the neighboring area. Staff will follow up with the Opioid Settlement Funds Advisory Committee, and bring back additional recommendations for the use of the Opioid Settlement Funds at a future Board meeting in 2024.

8. **Consent Agenda:**

A. Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2023 Commissioner Meeting

B. Adoption of Proclamation Proclaiming January 10, 2024 as "Max Roach Day"

It has been requested that the Board adopt a proclamation proclaiming January 10, 2024 as "Max Roach Day" in Pasquotank County in honor of his musical legacy and 100th Birthday. The attached proclamation will be read by Chairman Jordan at an event held at Arts of the Albemarle on January 10, 2024.

C. Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Upset Bid Process

At the prior Finance Committee meeting, the Board agreed it would begin the upset bid process for the two lots in Oak Grove (P122A-219 and P122A-220) based upon a \$500 bid submitted for the properties by Melvin Reid. Mr. Reid has now paid the required deposit. Upon approval of the attached resolution, the upset bid process can formally begin. After the time period has ended, the bids will be brought before the Board and it can accept or reject any offers.

9. **New Business:**

A. Recommendations by the Appointments Committee

10. **County Manager's Reports**

11. **County Attorney's Reports**

12. **Internal and External Committee Reports and Proposals**

13. **Adjournment**