

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 6, 2017**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, February 6, 2017 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cecil Perry, Chairman
Dr. William R. Sterritt, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Dixon
Lloyd E. Griffin, III
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr.
Frankie Meads
Bettie J. Parker

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Cecil Perry. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Commissioner William Sterritt led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Perry welcomed everyone present.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Perry asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Commissioner Parker requested that the agenda be amended to add a recommendation from the Appointments Committee at their meeting today to new business.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Frankie Meads to approve the amendment to the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL AS SENIOR GAMES PARTICIPATION MONTH:

Chairman Winslow recognized Ashley Lamb, Albemarle Senior Games Coordinator to accept a proclamation designating April as Senior Games Participation Month in Pasquotank County. He read and presented the following proclamation:

**PROCLAMATION 2017-01
DESIGNATING APRIL AS
SENIOR GAMES PARTICIPATION MONTH
IN THE COUNTY OF PASQUOTANK**

WHEREAS, mature adults and the entire community look forward to the Albemarle Senior Games, an Olympic style event designed to create year-round health promotion and competition for participants that are 50 years of age and better; and

WHEREAS, the Albemarle Senior Games, held March 27-May 23 of this year, is sanctioned by North Carolina Senior Games, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Albemarle Senior Games takes a holistic approach by involving the body, mind and spirit of its athletes and promoting the importance of aging in a healthy manner; and

WHEREAS, the regional event, engaging the counties of Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington with the goal to enhance growth, development, and connection to opportunity for all participants and volunteers, was founded 33 years ago, in 1984; and

WHEREAS, participants will compete in a total of 48 athletic events and 34 artistic categories; and

WHEREAS, our well wishes are extended to all of the competitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners, hereby proclaims that April be recognized as Senior Games Participation Month in the County of Pasquotank, and promotes participation as well as volunteerism within the Albemarle Senior Games program.

Dated this 6th day of February 2017

Ms. Lamb thanked the Board for their support. She reported that 375 seniors participated in the games last year.

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda. Commissioner Griffin stated that he needs to be recused from considering the consent agenda because of a conflict regarding the Solid Waste Fee Refunds that are included on the consent agenda.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Frankie Meads to recuse Commissioner Griffin from considering the consent agenda due to a conflict of interest. The motion carried unanimously.

a. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2017 Commissioner Meeting

b. Approval of Tax Releases

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax releases:

Tax Releases

		County	City
1.	Henry Bailey Heirs	144.00	
2.	Keys Locksmith Inc. 2016	122.36	105.46
3.	Keys Locksmith Inc. 2015	122.36	103.04
4.	Yancey Caldenia Elliott	100.32	
5.	Earth Shakers LLC	325.28	280.34
6.	Harris Sites LLC	145.92	
7.	Stephen I. & Robin A. Harris	550.24	
8.	Rhonda W. & Troy D. Mc Cullen	389.88	336.02
9.	Rhonda W. & Troy D. Mc Cullen	405.84	349.97

Tax Refunds

		County	City
1.	Christopher Ryan Fitz	156.52	136.60
2.	Christopher Ryan Fitz	119.25	105.41
3.	Christopher Ryan Fitz	220.10	190.34
4.	Scott Christopher Lee	153.82	137.57
5.	Rhonda W. & Troy Mc Cullen	389.88	323.19
6.	Rhonda W. & Troy Mc Cullen	389.88	328.32
7.	Rhonda W. & Troy Mc Cullen	405.84	336.46
8.	Rhonda W. & Troy Mc Cullen	405.84	341.76
9.	Kent Carl Sutton	164.45	138.47
10.	Kent Carl Sutton	123.48	103.98
11.	Harold Chester White Sr.	217.36	
12.	Glenda Warden Wood		141.24

Solid Waste Fee Releases

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Linda Bridgeman Etal	P6-26	Vacant
2.	Melba Bridgeman	P7-16	Vacant
3.	Angerine Brite Heirs	39-B-32	Vacant
4.	Nolan M. Bundy	P6-5	Vacant
5.	Harold S. & Ann Chambers	P35-56	Vacant
6.	Gladys S. Daniels	P127-14	Vacant
7.	Hercules & Eula Etheridge	P63-39	Vacant

8.	Geneva Gibbs	25-C-89 & 90	Vacant
9.	Raymond M. Godfrey Jr.	P60-26	Vacant
10.	Raymond M. Godfrey Jr.	P34-9	Vacant
11.	Raymond M. Godfrey Jr.	P33-35	Vacant
12.	Erma L. Green	28-B-7	Vacant
13.	Lloyd E. Griffin Etal	24-B-57	Vacant
14.	Annette Griswell Etal	P93-19	Vacant
15.	Theodore & Edna Hudson	79-E-164-165	Vacant
16.	Julius Johnson Estate	55-F-23-24	Vacant
17.	Gracie Meads Heirs	P35-59	Vacant
18.	Georgia Morgan	28-C-6	Vacant
19.	Earl Overton Lf. Est.	P99-8	Vacant
20.	Jo Ann Perry	P60-26	Vacant
21.	Harry W. Reed III	P127-10	Vacant
22.	William David Reid	P35-9	Vacant
23.	Marjorie B. Saunders	P38-24	Vacant
24.	Daniel Serik	P132A-135	Vacant
25.	Floyd E. Simpson Jr.	P58-15	Vacant
26.	Willard & Ann Simpson	P89-94, 104	Vacant
27.	Wilford & Nellie Spellman Heirs	P94-26	Vacant
28.	Tony & Cordelia G. Spence	P112-96	Vacant
29.	Tony & Cordelia Spence	P80-36	Vacant
30.	Marshall H. Stevenson Jr.	P36-40	Vacant
31.	William E. & Edla F. Stevens	P88-12	Vacant
32.	Alan Eugene Stewart Sr.	22-K-32,33	Vacant
33.	Alan Eugene Stewart	P111-2	Vacant
34.	Bell Taylors Heirs	26-D-1	Vacant
35.	Billie & Corrine White	P107-18B	Vacant

Solid Waste Fee Refunds

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Lloyd E. Griffin III	24-B-51A	Vacant

c. Approval of Family Subdivision Request FS 17-03 by Kevin Brickhouse

Staff recommends approval of Family Subdivision Request FS 17-03 by Kevin L. Brickhouse. Mr. Brickhouse is requesting to create a 1.48 acre gift lot for his son, Colin Brickhouse, in accordance with Article 5, Section 303 of the Pasquotank County Subdivision Ordinance. A total of 30 feet of road frontage is provided to the parcel off of Cherry Glade Road. A birth certificate has been provided as documentation that the plat qualifies as a family subdivision and an improvement permit has been issued for a septic system. Staff advises that the request meets the minimum requirements for a family subdivision.

d. Approval to Enter into Agreement with North Carolina 911 Board

The terms of the grant agreement have been completed for execution of the \$1,010,779 grant from the NC 911 Board to Pasquotank County for establishing a PSAP back-up center within the Martin County Communications Center. The Finance Committee has requested authorization to accept the agreement.

e. Adoption of Resolution Declaring Property of the County as Surplus and Authorizing Disposition

The Finance Committee recommended the Board adopt the following resolution authorizing staff to list the described surplus property for auction on GovDeals.com:

**RESOLUTION
2017-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY OF THE COUNTY TO BE SURPLUS
AND AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF SAID PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners has determined that the County owns certain personal property that is no longer needed or usable by the County; and

WHEREAS, the property is described below:

Make	Model	Year	V.I.N. / Description
Mack	Truck	2008	1M1AN07YX8N001009

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners that the County Manager and County Clerk are hereby authorized to list the above described surplus for auction.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that property described in this resolution is surplus as of February 6, 2017.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Joseph Winslow to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

4. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION ALLOWING COUNTY MANAGER TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS THROUGH THE UNIFIED HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM:

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Jeff Dixon to adopt the following resolution allowing the County Manager to apply for grant funds through the Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program. The motion carried unanimously.

Grant Application – Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A SUB-APPLICANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN PASQUOTANK COUNTY AND NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UNIFIED HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of North Carolina, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management has Hazard Mitigation funds available to the jurisdictions of declared counties; and

WHEREAS, the disaster, affected citizens of Pasquotank County would greatly benefit from the acquisition and demolition, elevation, and reconstruction programs which are the top priorities in the Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program (UHMA); and

WHEREAS, storm water management, wind retrofits and purchasing of commercial properties are the second tier of priority; and

WHEREAS, the devastation of Hurricane Matthew has resulted in the largest Hazard Mitigation Grant Program since Hurricane Floyd; with fund availability in excess of \$100 million;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners that the Pasquotank County Manager is authorized to apply for grant funds through the Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and as sub-applicant work closely with NC Emergency Management to identify eligible and cost effective projects for this long-term program designed to protect lives and properties from future disaster.

Adopted this the 6th day of February, 2017.

5. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NC WATERMEN:

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Frankie Meads to adopt the following resolution supporting NC Watermen.

**RESOLUTION
OPPOSING THE DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL SECONDARY NURSERY AREAS**

WHEREAS, a petition for rulemaking to designate Special Secondary Nursery Areas and Reduce Bycatch Mortality has been submitted to the NC Marine Fisheries Commission by the NC Wildlife Federation; and

WHEREAS, the petition seeks to designate all inshore and ocean waters out to three miles as Special Secondary Nursery Areas and define the type of gear and how and when gear may be used during shrimp season; and

WHEREAS, if adopted, the petition would severely limit shrimp trawling, which would have a devastating impact on commercial fishing families by arbitrarily impairing their livelihood and depriving American tables of fresh, healthy catches of North Carolina harvested shrimp; and

WHEREAS, shrimp trawling has been a vibrant and successful part of North Carolina's heritage and culture for all of its history and represents a means by which generations of commercial watermen create jobs, provide for their families, and contribute to the economic wellbeing of North Carolina's coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, existing state and federal regulations provide ample provisions for monitoring and regulation of commercial shrimping with serious penalties and sanctions for rule violations, which have proven to be effective in preventing overfishing and waste.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes the petition for rulemaking to Designate Special Secondary Nursery Areas and Reduce Bycatch Mortality In North Carolina Coastal Fishing Waters as set forth by the NC Wildlife Federation and strongly urges the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission to reject it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners asks all coastal communities to support North Carolina's working watermen by adopting similar resolutions in opposition of this petition for rulemaking that would put North Carolina shrimping in jeopardy.

Adopted this the 6th day of February, 2017.

Commissioner Griffin said this resolution is very important because the legislators continue to shut down commercial fishing activities and more and more seafood is being imported from overseas.

After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

6. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMAZON WIND FARM US EAST:

Chairman Perry stated that he felt the recent tour of the wind project with state representatives was very positive.

Commissioner Griffin requested the resolution be amended to reference affiliated filings, which clarifies the actual agreement between the Navy and Iberdrola.

After much discussion;

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Jeff Dixon to approve the following resolution supporting the Amazon Wind Farm US East, as amended.

Resolution in Support of Amazon Wind Farm US East

WHEREAS the Amazon Wind Farm US East provides a valuable source of pollution-free and carbon-free electricity while taking a tiny amount of land out of agricultural production and providing a valuable income stream to local farmers; and

WHEREAS the Amazon Wind Farm US East has already been a huge benefit to the Pasquotank County and regional economy, employing more than 200 during its construction and spending nearly \$16 million locally; and

WHEREAS the Amazon Wind Farm US East will continue to be a tremendous economic benefit to residents and landowners in Pasquotank County, providing residents with \$270,000 in annual tax payments and landowners with \$320,000 in lease payments annually, each income stream growing by 1.5% annually for 30 years; and

WHEREAS the Amazon Wind Farm US East will continue to employ 10 to 15 workers making an average salary of \$80,000, which will be nearly three times the average salary paid to workers in Pasquotank County; and

WHEREAS wind-farm developer AVANGRID invested more than \$400 million in the Amazon Wind Farm US East only after receiving regulatory approval from all the lawfully governing agencies, including the Federal Aviation Administration, the United States Department of Defense Clearing House, the North Carolina Utilities Commission, the Pasquotank County Commission, and the U.S. Navy; and

WHEREAS Seymour Johnson Air Force Base has affirmed in writing that Amazon Wind Farm US East poses no conflict with its training-flight paths; and

WHEREAS the Department of Defense; Department of the Navy; Iberdrola Renewables, LLC; and Atlantic Wind, LLC entered into an agreement November 5, 2014 on the subject of Mitigation of Development Impacts of a Wind Turbine Energy Project in Perquimans and Pasquotank Counties, North Carolina, FFA ASN 2014-WTE-3610-OE and All Affiliated Filings that referenced (a) Section 358 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011, as amended by Section 331 of Public Law 112-81 and (b) 32 Code of Federation Regulations (CFR) Part 211; and

WHEREAS the Department of Defense; Department of the Navy; Iberdrola Renewables, LLC; and Atlantic Wind, LLC agree to 104 turbine locations in accordance with DoD and Navy aeronautical study numbers corresponding to the wind turbine locations listed in the agreement; and

WHEREAS the U.S. Navy came to this conclusion only after it was confirmed by extensive modeling based on the same MIT study that 10 North Carolina legislators now claim without basis proves the opposite; and

WHEREAS honoring these legislators' request would render AVANGRID's \$400-million investment worthless, constitute an unprecedented confiscation of a fully approved private-sector capital investment by the government, and send a terrible message to other businesses considering investing in North Carolina;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Office of the Governor, Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis, and the North Carolina Congressional Delegation to vigorously state their opposition at this blatant attempt to usurp the rule of law in the United States and North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners urges President Donald Trump's Transition Team to treat this request with the inaction it deserves.

ADOPTED this the 6th day of February 2017.

The Board discussed sending a letter to Representative Steinburg thanking him for facilitating the meeting/tour that took place last month with other state representatives and a letter to Senator Cook informing him of the Board's disappointment in his attempting to shut down the wind farm project and his attempt to do so without discussing the matter with them and also for not attending a legislative tour of the wind farm last month.

Commissioner Parker expressed that the final paragraph might be rewritten to provide clarity that President Donald Trump's Transition Team would take no action on the request. After discussion, it was the consensus that the proposed language was acceptable.

After discussion; the motion carried unanimously.

Additional discussions followed and the Board came to a consensus to instruct staff to send a thank you letter to Representative Steinburg, as well as a letter to Senator Bill Cook informing him of the Board's disappointment with him signing the letter to shut down the windfarm without voicing his concerns with the Board and notify him that the Board is disappointed with him choosing not to attend the meeting regarding the shutdown. Chairman Perry stated that if Senator Cook had any concerns with the project, he feels he should have voiced his concerns with the Board before he went forward with signing the letter.

7. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Bettie Parker reported that the Appointments Committee met today and has made the following recommendation:

Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – Nominate Deborah Dinsmore to fill a vacancy. Since this is a new appointment, it must lay over until the next meeting.

Motion was made by Bettie Parker, seconded by Jeff Dixon to accept the recommendation from the Appointments Committee. The appointment will need to lie over until the next meeting to provide Board members an opportunity to review the application. The motion carried unanimously.

8. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:

County Attorney Mike Cox reported that he attended the Annual Attorney's Conference last week and said it was a very informative session.

9. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER:

County Manager Rodney Bunch reported the following:

Pat McDowell, Engineer representing the Solid Waste Department recently contacted local contractors soliciting their participation in submitting bids for making improvements to the Weeksville Recycling Center and the Newland Recycling Center. We will receive bids February 14th.

Commissioner Meads and I attended the Inter-County VFD banquet Saturday, January 21st. They had their new pumper on display. Pasquotank County Commissioners agreed to provide payments of \$19,350 per year over a ten year period to assist in the purchase of the fire truck. The fire chief and assistant fire chief presented plaques to two young firemen for participating in the most training hours over the past year. One fireman accumulated 200 hours. This individual also obtained EMT credentials as part of his training.

I attended the 56th Annual NC City and County Management Conference February 1-3. Three of the sessions I attended included:

- What a Manager Needs to Know about Audits and Current Financial Reporting Requirements – discussed governments having to deal with ramifications of new standards that require potentially huge liabilities to suddenly appear on the financial statements related to employment commitments. Also discussed new auditing and financial reporting requirements and their effects on local governments.
- NC Public Schools Partnership – NC and its counties long ago partnered to create and fund public schools. Discussion focused on the growing role of counties responsibilities for providing capital needs and operating expenses for public schools and students.
- Remedying the Issue of Housing and Treating the Mentally Ill in County Jails – County jails operate as the largest mental health facility across the nation. This model fails to provide the most effective care for the individual, is inefficient from a cost perspective, and has negative morale on jail personnel. Discussion covered what counties and other organizations are doing to improve the situation. Leza Wainwright, Chief Executive Officer, Trillium Health Resources was one of the speakers.

Mr. Bunch reminded the Board of upcoming meetings.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Winslow reported that he attended the Legislative Goals Conference in Raleigh. He said they voted on many issues, such as subdivision bonds and the possibility of changing the age an individual can be tried as an adult to 18 years of age. Next week, he said he will be attending a directors meeting in Raleigh.

Commissioner Winslow invited the Board to ride out and view the new Camden County welcome sign in Morgan's Corner. He said he would like to see Pasquotank County construct similar welcome signs. Commissioner Dixon stated that there are tourism funds available that can be used to purchase such signs.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dixon, seconded by Joe Winslow that the purchase of welcome signs for Pasquotank County be discussed at the next Special Projects Committee meeting and a recommendation be brought back to the full Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Meads will be attending the RC&D meeting tomorrow night. He said the Department of Insurance in Raleigh, which runs the Code Council, has changed significantly and they will be looking into relaxing restrictions on volunteer fire departments.

Commissioner Parker attended the MLK Breakfast at K.E. White Center on January 16th, as well as participated in the MLK Walk where a forum was held on bringing forth peaceful unity in our country as Dr. King professed in many of his speeches when was alive. She attended the Amazon Wind Farm meeting in Perquimans County on January 24th where Speaker of the House Moore and other House Representatives were present to listen to the concerns of the County Commissioners regarding a letter signed by some members of the General Assembly to shut down the wind turbines in Pasquotank County and Perquimans County. On January 26th, she attended the Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner. Lastly, she attended the ECPPS Parent/Community Advisory Council Meeting and handed out information regarding the meeting.

Commissioner Griffin attended a meeting in Dare County last week referencing the STI funding formulas, ferries, bridges, maintenance, and construction projects in our region. He stated that Highway 64 from Dare County to Martin County is now identified as the Blue Star Veterans Highway. He said it has been suggested that Pasquotank County write a letter asking that Pasquotank, Camden, Perquimans, Chowan, and Bertie be incorporated into the Blue Star Veterans Highway Initiative. He stated that Pasquotank County has projects that have move up on the new STI funding list. He reported that there are a number of bridge projects and secondary road projects that have moved up.

Commissioner Dixon reported that the 2nd Annual Exhibit and Project Expo for the Northeast Academy is scheduled for February 16th. He stated that the charter school has been granted a \$200,000 Golden Leaf Grant to help train teachers and purchase computers. He said the charter school continues to score well on grants because it includes seven counties.

Vice-Chairman Sterritt stated that the Community Relations Commission meets the 2nd Monday of each month. He said Dr. Hunsberger spoke to the group at their last meeting. He noted that there is still one vacancy on the board for an individual between the ages of 16 and 30. He said Elizabeth City Downtown is working with the Coast Guard to hang a huge banner at the Coast Guard Park. The banner is being sponsored by Phyllis Bosomworth and Everett Thompson. He said the DSS Board met this morning and he was information they have a position they would like to have filled in the near future.

Chairman Perry thanked the Board for their reports and for the work they do. He attended the Health Department Board meeting and a ribbon cutting for the new tourism office. Tomorrow, he will attend a meeting at the Currituck Cooperative Extension Office regarding the Port of Virginia.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Jeff Dixon to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD

