

PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 2, 2015

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, March 2, 2015 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rodney Bunch, County Manager
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Karen Jennings, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairman Joe Winslow. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Commissioner William Sterritt led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Winslow welcomed the guests in attendance.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Winslow asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry requested that the agenda be amended to add the following recommendations from today's Finance Committee meeting to the consent agenda: 1) Approval of tax releases and refunds and solid waste fee releases; 2) Approval of budget amendments; 3) Approval to declare vehicle as surplus; 4) Approval to purchase an ambulance from Tyrrell County Rescue Squad; and 5) Approval to purchase a fire truck for the Weeksville Volunteer Fire Department.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Jeff Dixon to add the five items recommended by the Finance Committee to the consent agenda. The motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes of February 12, February 16 and February 20, 2015 Commissioner Meetings
- b. Approval of Family Subdivision Request FS 15-01 by Dianne Banks-Pazzanese
Staff recommends approval of Family Subdivision Request FS 15-01 by Dianne Banks-Pazzanese. Ms. Pazzanese is requesting to create a four acre gift lot for her daughter, Cheryl Banks, in accordance with Article 5, Section 303 of the Pasquotank County Subdivision Ordinance. A total of 140 feet of road frontage is provided to the parcel off of Rosecroft Drive. 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 and recommends approval.
- c. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Camden United Methodist Church for Use as a Dispensing Site
The Emergency Management Department has requested that the Board approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Camden United Methodist Church and Camden County for use of the church as a dispensing site for food and supplies in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. The Board needs to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement on behalf of Pasquotank County.
- d. Request to Declare Vehicle as Surplus
The Finance Committee has recommended that the following Water Department vehicle be declared surplus so that it can be sold on GovDeals.com:

1985 Chevrolet Custom Deluxe
Miles showing - 9548
VIN# 1GCGC23 M6FS187208
Does not run - needs fuel pump

e. Approval to Purchase Ambulance from Tyrrell County Rescue Squad
The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve the purchase of a 2010 Chevrolet G4500 ambulance with supplies and equipment from the Tyrrell County Rescue Squad for a total cost of \$64,600. With tags and taxes, restriping/graphics to match the EMS fleet, and radio reprogramming the total cost to put the ambulance into service would be \$70,744. The EMS Director has estimated that the county would save an estimated \$128,062 by eliminating the purchase of a new ambulance from the FY 2015-16 budget. The Finance Committee also recommended that a local company be given the option to do the restriping and graphics if it can do so at a lower price than the company that normally stripes the EMS vehicles.

f. Approval of Purchase of Weeksville Fire Truck
The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board authorize the purchase of a new fire truck for the Weeksville Volunteer Fire Department. Bids were received on February 19 and the low bid was submitted by HME in the amount of \$287,993 for a demo truck. The Weeksville Fire Department has requested approval to purchase the demo. The Board had originally agreed to provide \$273,000 for the purchase of a fire truck. The fire department has requested that the Board pay the difference upfront and allow them to reimburse the county in annual installments. They have agreed to pay the \$15,000 difference at \$5,000 per year for the next three years.

g. Approval of Tax Releases & Refunds
The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax releases & refunds and solid waste fee releases:

Releases:

	County	City
1. Rufus A. & Georgetta Jackson	144.00	
2. Faith Gregory Revocable Trust	751.61	
3. Shelton E. & Margaret G. Bright	213.56	172.81
4. Lillian Reyes Brockway	376.42	

Refunds:

1. Jeremy Joseph Aust	247.76	205.49
2. Christopher & Mary H. Myatt	319.96	
3. Christopher & Mary H. Myatt	389.88	
4. R. Wayne Pendleton	147.40	

Solid Waste Releases:

OWNER'S NAME	PARCEL ID NUMBER	REASON FOR RELEASE
1. Harry W. Reed	P127-10	Vacant since 2003
2. Luther Jr. & Judith Williams Lfe Est.	P80-79	Vacant since 2011

h. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

E-911

Increase	022.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	20,400.00
Increase	022.4328.5500.00	Capital Outlay	20,400.00

EMS

Increase	010.0400.4437.00	Revenue for Services	70,744.00
Increase	010.4370.5500.00	Capital Outlay	70,744.00

Capital Reserve

Decrease	021.8200.5960.03	Reserve for Public Safety	198,745.00
Increase	021.8200.5980.10	Transfer to General Fund	115,934.00
Decrease	021.0700.4981.00	Transfer from General Fund	82,811.00

General Fund			
Increase	010.0700.4981.21	Transfer from Capital Reserve	115,934.00
Decrease	010.6600.5980.21	Transfer to Capital Reserve	82,811.00
Decrease	010.6600.5980.25	Transfer to Reappraisal Reserve	16,662.00
Increase	010.0500.4831.00	Interest Earned	10,000.00
Decrease	010.4180.5121.00	Salaries and Wages	21,439.00
Decrease	010.4180.5181.00	FICA	1,640.00
Decrease	010.4180.5182.00	Retirement	1,515.00
Increase	010.0600.4944.00	Weeksville VFD	5,000.00
Increase	010.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	32,992.00
Increase	010.4340.5500.00	Capital Outlay	287,993.00

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Jeff Dixon to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT TO PASQUOTANK COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD:

At the last meeting the Appointments Committee recommended the appointment of Dorsey Harris to the Library Board to replace Neli Fernandez who has resigned. A copy of Mr. Harris' application has been provided to the members of the Board since the last meeting and the Board can give final approval to this appointment or can nominate someone else to fill the vacancy.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Jeff Dixon to appoint Dorsey Harris to fill a vacancy on the Pasquotank County Library Board. The motion carried unanimously.

The Clerk updated the Board on the current vacancies on boards and committees.

4. REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER:

County Manager Rodney Bunch provided each Commissioner with a copy of the Department of Transportation's schedule for resurfacing roads in Pasquotank County over the next two years.

Mr. Bunch reminded the Board that he will be out of town next week.

5. REPORT FROM STEVE KEEN, DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR'S EASTERN DISTRICT OFFICE:

Chairman Winslow called on Mr. Steve Keen, Director of the Governor's Eastern District Office, and Mr. Malcolm Fearing, Member of the State Board of Transportation. Mr. Keen explained that his job is to go into the counties, deal with the governments, and be the eyes and ears of the Governor. He said his duties include listening to the governments of the counties and cities and finding out what their concerns are and take them to the Governor so that he might review them with his cabinet members.

Mr. Keen touched on several issues including:

- The Governor will be asking for approval this year of a \$1.2 billion bond to be used to springboard transportation projects.
- Two years ago the unemployment rate was 8.5%; now it is 5.5% as 200,000 individuals in the State of North Carolina who weren't working two years ago have gone to work.
- Unemployment insurance owed to the federal government was \$2.5 billion in the red; it is now less than \$500 million in the red and should be paid off within the next 18 to 24 months. The employers in the state have saved approximately \$180 million in 2014 by not having to continue paying unemployment.
- Exports from the State of North Carolina were \$31 billion; North Carolina is about three times the national average in exports.
- 2014 has been a year of change, particularly with transportation.
- Prosperity zones were cut out from the Department of Commerce.
- The Governor has put together a 10 year transportation plan for funding transportation needs in addition to his 25 year vision plan.
- 54% of the Governor's proposed budget this year is for education.
- The Governor is all in with community colleges.
- The Governor is very concerned about Medicare and Medicaid and what is happening in Washington.

Mr. Keen highlighted the Governor's 10 year jobs plan with recommended strategies for economic growth and for putting people to work.

Chairman Winslow noted that the Governor has committed funds for Runway 0119 at the Coast Guard Base. He said that is a major need for the area. He advised that Elizabeth City will become a Coast Guard City on May 9 and the Coast Guard is and has always been a major focal point of this community. He asked that Mr. Keen convey to the Governor that the county needs his support for the runway improvements.

Commissioner Jeff Dixon advised that he will be attending a hearing at DOT Headquarters in Raleigh this Wednesday at 10:00 AM for the Elizabeth City Regional Airport apron rehabilitation project. He stated that the Chairman of the Airport Authority and the Airport Manager will also be attending the hearing. Commissioner Dixon said he would like to add that the Governor is very business-minded and is all about creating jobs, but he does not think the House and Senate are which could prevent the Governor from getting a lot accomplished. He said one thing that Pasquotank County needs help with is College of The Albemarle which is very unique in that it covers seven counties. He stated that Pasquotank County, since it is the host county, has to pay all of the operational costs and capital costs for the college. He noted that the other six counties have kids attending COA and give some money, but give very little compared to what Pasquotank County provides which is very unfair. Commissioner Dixon said some help in the way of an additional funding stream is needed to help the college grow. He stated that College of The Albemarle could be pulling students from the Hampton Roads area. He said the COA President is very aggressive and has a five year strategic plan to add buildings and programs and grow College of The Albemarle. He stated that Pasquotank County would have to go into a lot of debt in order to construct additional buildings and the people of the county do not want more debt and they do not want a tax increase. He said it will be difficult to meet COA's goals going forward. Commissioner Dixon asked for assistance from the Governor's Office with funding for COA.

Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry stated that Elizabeth City State University also needs a great deal of financial help. He said any funds to help that institution with enrollment would be quite beneficial because ECSU also makes a great contribution to this area.

Commissioner Sterritt noted that Elizabeth City is indeed a college town because it is home to College of The Albemarle, Elizabeth City State University and Mid-Atlantic Christian University. He said he does not want Elizabeth City State University to be like the wilted fig tree because it is an economic driver for this area. He stated that he understands the State of North Carolina is going to assist ECSU with \$3 million for each of the next two years to help with their budget shortfall. Commissioner Sterritt added that the Board is interested in all of the education that takes place in Pasquotank County.

Commissioner Griffin asked Mr. Fearing to address Secretary Tata's four-point transportation plan that would be funded by a billion dollar bond fund. Mr. Fearing said there is a coastal emphasis, an eastern emphasis, a western emphasis, and a piedmont emphasis. He said this plan is unique in that Division I which encompasses fourteen counties would get two bites of the apple. He pointed out that this is an outline of a plan that has not been vetted. He stated that the Governor has given instructions to DOT to be transparent so everyone can see all of the scores. He said as this plan moves forward, it will provide great opportunities for local input to help formulate and support the Governor's vision. He stated that waterways are as important as highways and the plan provides opportunities to improve channels, ferries, and ports. He said the Wilmington and Morehead ports are very important to Northeastern North Carolina, specifically Division I. He stated that the economic impact as presented at the Board of Transportation's January meeting was over \$665 million from those ports. Oregon Inlet has an economic impact of \$400 to \$500 million. Mr. Fearing noted that Dare County has included a waterway element in its transportation plan. He informed the Board that Commissioner Griffin represents Pasquotank County and the region well as Chairman of the RPO. He stated that DOT has the best staff led by Jerry Jennings, Division One Engineer, which is very effective in Raleigh. Commissioner Griffin added that the waterway improvements through the coastal 20 counties is as much of a need as airport projects, bridges and roads, and the RPO has taken a strong stand on this.

Commissioner Griffin asked how a cap or lowering of the gas tax will impact the overall transportation budget. Mr. Fearing stated that the Department of Transportation does not initiate,

create, or vote on legislation and works with the legislation and the funds that are given to them. He said the State of North Carolina needs in excess of \$80 billion for transportation. He stated that Senate Bill 20 has been passed by the Senate and will now go to the House for consideration. He said in bringing Senate Bill 20 forward it has started a conversation to address these tremendous needs. He noted that part of the effect of that bill was a lowering of the gas tax and a cap which will have a short-term effect on the budget. He said it is supposed to generate funds in the out years for infrastructure. He added that the community needs to start talking about transportation infrastructure as an investment in the state and discuss how it can be funded. He said this will have to be addressed in order to expand airports and to advance the Governor's vision on the U.S. 64/U.S. 17 interstate corridor. He stated that this year \$90 million worth of highway and bridge projects will be completed, including the Elizabeth Street project which is near completion. He noted that the Mid-Currituck bridge project has moved up in priority and DOT is looking at future right-of-way for this project. He said the state will need to work within its budget and there are challenges. He added that DOT will do the best it can with the moneys it receives under the leadership of Secretary Tata and his staff.

Chairman Winslow stated that he has sent a letter of thanks to the local Department of Transportation thanking them for their response during the recent snow and ice storms. He said the primary roads have never been cleared as quickly and professionally as they were recently. He added that DOT needs a pat on the back, and he would like for the Governor's Office to know about the excellent job DOT has done.

Commissioner Parker stated that the Board has received a copy of the Department of Transportation's schedule for resurfacing streets and roads in the county. She asked how DOT determines which streets take priority for resurfacing. Mr. Fearing responded that the process is done according to pavement condition and is not done according to locations or neighborhoods. He stated that DOT actually has a matrix it uses which includes a measurement of the shoulders, the cracking of the roads, potholes, and pavement condition. From that they will develop a list of the streets that need resurfacing the most. Mr. Fearing said he would assure that there is no method that uses neighborhoods in any of the criteria. He added that the snow events have taken quite a toll on the highways across the entire state and where those maintenance dollars will come from is an issue.

Chairman Winslow thanked Mr. Keen and Mr. Fearing for coming to tonight's meeting and updating the Board.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner William Sterritt reported that he attended a meeting of the Social Services Board this morning and Social Services Director Melissa Stokely asked questions about funding. He asked the County Manager to report on his meeting with her. Mr. Bunch explained that he met with Ms. Stokely last week and they discussed concerns she had expressed regarding the Personnel Policy. He said Ms. Stokely also discussed with him on-call pay and a proposal has been developed. He stated that he will be scheduling a meeting of the Personnel Committee in the next few weeks to discuss proposed changes to the Personnel Policy.

Commissioner Lloyd Griffin said on March 5 the Department of Transportation will be having a centennial celebration in Raleigh. He reported that the week of March 16 is a March for Meals campaign whereby volunteers can sign up to help deliver Meals on Wheels during that week. He stated that those interested in participating should contact the Albemarle Commission.

Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry stated that he has signed up to deliver Meals on Wheels during the event Commissioner Griffin previously mentioned. He also reported that the health insurance group met today and the Health Board will hold a meeting on March 24 to discuss Albemarle Home Care and Hospice.

Chairman Winslow reported that he and the County Manager had a very nice meeting with Mr. Keen and Mr. Fearing before tonight's meeting and he was very impressed with their interest in this area. He stated that Mr. Keen and Mr. Fearing listened intently to their concerns and ideas. He said he heard at the meeting that the counties in the area need to work together to get support for their mutual interests and problems. He added that the managers and chairs from the different counties in the area may be asked to go to Raleigh to request support on certain issues.

Chairman Winslow said he again would like to state that DOT did a very good job in this area to clear the primary streets of snow and ice following the recent storms. He added that he was very proud of the job they did.

7. NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VIDEO UPDATE:

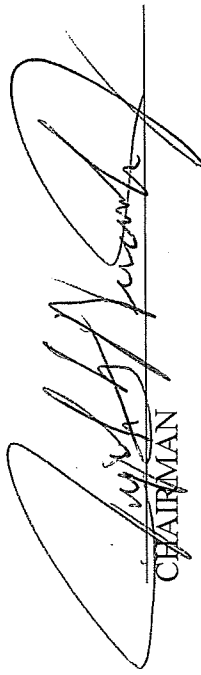
County Manager Rodney Bunch presented a video update provided by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. The update provided a schedule of the upcoming district meetings, highlights of the NACo Legislative Conference, and an upcoming opportunity to provide input on the NCACC Strategic Plan. The NCACC will host County Assembly Day on Wednesday, May 6 at the Quorum Center in Raleigh.

8. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY:

County Attorney Mike Cox recommended a change in the Memorandum of Understanding with Camden United Methodist Church that was previously approved tonight as part of the Consent Agenda. He stated that the agreement should be with Pasquotank County and not with Camden-Pasquotank Emergency Management. He said without objection he will change the agreement and substitute Pasquotank County for Camden-Pasquotank Emergency Management.

Chairman Winslow asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being no further business;

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Frankie Meads to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.


 CHAIRMAN


 CLERK TO THE BOARD