

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 20, 2017**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, March 20, 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
Shelley Cox, Planning Director
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Perry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Bill Sterritt led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Perry welcomed everyone present and thanked them for participating in the meeting.

1. COMMENTS FROM CAROL TERRYBERRY:

Chairman Perry recognized Ms. Carol Terryberry of 105 Margaret Drive. Ms. Terryberry stated that she was a nurse midwife in Elizabeth City for twelve years. She said she was asked to speak on some of the impacts and opinions of the healthcare law on healthcare professionals.

Ms. Terryberry stated that the American Healthcare Bill that is going to the floor on Thursday maintains much of the structure of Obama Care. She said it does not get rid of regulations and what it does keep in place is the guaranteed issue where healthcare is a right for all. It continues to keep the essential health benefits, without actually addressing the overregulation. It states that hospitals are still obligated to care for all that come regardless of their ability to pay. She explained that it does block grant Medicaid to the states and that could lead to changes on individual state basis. She said we have a right to healthcare, but not in the way that Bernie Sanders suggests. She said we have a right to healthcare that is unencumbered by government regulations like we have now. She stated that the current numbers pertaining to Obama Care are pretty staggering. The employer plans are up by 32%, individuals plans are up 99%, and family plans are up 140%. She spoke with a family today who pays \$2,200 a month for insurance and their deductible is \$10,000. These friends would love to replace their cars or do yardwork, but they are not able to do anything until this gets fixed. Deductibles are up significantly. She said Medicaid was expanded by \$11.8 million dollars and it was called a success. She said that will blossom to \$3.8 trillion over the next ten years.

Ms. Terryberry said in North Carolina 95 out of 100 counties have one insurance provider, so there is no competition, which is why the rates are so high. She stated that some places have no providers. She explained that \$5 billion has been wasted on failed state exchanges and almost \$2 million has been wasted on failed co-ops. In 2015, the IRS reported that 12.7 million individuals were exempt from the mandate and 6.5 million paid the penalty instead of purchasing insurance. She said moving forward we need to lower the cost of health insurance. Both the healthcare market and the insurance market are broken because of government involvement. She said imagine how much your car insurance would cost if you had to have your insurance company pay for your oil changes or if your homeowners insurance paid for light bulbs, but you had to have your contractor give you orders for light bulbs. It's the regulations that are the problem. She stated that in order for the market to work people have to pay some of their own money and shop around and there needs to be an active supply of competition with companies offering better services and helping each other out. She said Walmart came in and up rooted the moms and pops and Amazon came in and undercut Walmart, but it gives us better products and lower prices in general.

Ms. Terryberry said because the current market is in a death spiral, only free market patient centered healthcare reforms can save our system. She asked that we let our senators know that full repeal is a good way to vote. She thanked the Board for their time.

Commissioner Meads said because of Obama Care one of his employees insurance went up \$2,500 and he has never used the hospitalization. He does not feel that it is a fair policy.

Commissioner Parker asked what will happen to the low income people who depend on the ACA for their services. She said she saw an interview at a town hall of a husband and wife who said they would die if Obama Care is stopped, because they would not have enough money to cover their health expenses. She asked if the repeal guarantees that there will be no lapse in coverage for these people. She acknowledged that the cost of insurance going up is a problem, but she feels we need to repair our current program rather than replace it. Ms. Terryberry said that is a good question. She explained that what is built into the repeal law is a two year phase out. Nothing will happen to their plan for two years, but the only way to move forward is to make the cost come down. She stated that just because you have an insurance card does not mean that you have access, because many doctors are not taking Medicaid. She noted that they can go to the emergency room, but that is such an expensive way to get care. She said there is no way to back out of this easily and it is going to be long term. She stated that while the free market is recovering, they can keep people on for two years and as far as pre-existing conditions there are some great innovative ideas out there. She said they can get a check at the beginning of the year and make it a market purchase such as term life insurance. She said tying your insurance to your employer was a really bad idea, because people get booted off when they lose their job.

Commissioner Parker asked what will happen after the two year period for these very sick, elderly and low income people. She said if these people were able to purchase healthcare they would not be on Medicaid. If we repeal, she read that there will be about 13 million people that will go without care and by 2026 there will be 24 million people without care. Ms. Terryberry said the CBO is assuming without the mandate no one will buy insurance. The new act will take away the requirement to buy insurance, because what is happening is they are requiring everyone to buy it because they know without the premiums going in they cannot afford it. She said it will not work without being propped up, whether it is tax advantages or subsidies for the insurance companies from the government. Ms. Parker said all indications are that there were several years to take care of these problems that we are now talking about. She said it is easy for healthy people to say we need to do this and we need to do that, without totally considering the people that are now on it and are very sick. She said people are very concerned about losing their insurance. She said the last report she read, there is no death spiral. She said there are things that can be done to the existing plan that can make it much better, without jeopardizing people who are already on it and need it. Ms. Terryberry said there has always been a safety net in this country. If an individual walks into an emergency room or hospital, they are required in their bylaws to take care of you no matter what, so no one is going to fall through the system. She noted that pre-existing conditions only happened when insurance was tied to employers. If the government covers very sick people by writing them checks and we let the market recover for the next several years, the rates will come down and become affordable. She said we have to be able to innovate.

Commissioner Winslow said as an accountant he sees young people electing to pay the \$605 penalty for not having insurance because of the high rates. He said they are paying high rates and have high deductibles, which means their insurance is of no value to them. He stated that everyone is being discussed except our young people who are being penalized. He believes when you involve the Internal Revenue Service in something it is going to be negative and then you add politicians in it, it is bound to fail. He said this country needs to develop an adequate, affordable healthcare plan. He added that it needs to come from insurance companies and other people who know something about healthcare, not politicians.

Commissioner Meads said young people are trying to start families and insurance premiums are taking at least one paycheck a month from them.

Chairman Perry feels it would be a lot easier for everyone if we can adjust Obama Care. Ms. Terryberry said the underbelly of that beast is the regulations and until we take regulations off the companies they cannot innovate and they cannot compete. She noted that she does not care for the new healthcare act herself.

2. COMMENTS FROM DR. NITA COLEMAN:

Chairman Perry recognized Dr. Nita Coleman of 116 Dances Bay Trail. Dr. Coleman thanked the Board for allowing her to speak. She said she did not realize that she would be a counterpoint, but that is healthy. She stated that she is a retired pediatrician who practiced in Elizabeth City for 35 years. She introduced Ms. Jan Robinson, a retired hospital administrator. She said they are here to talk to the Board about the kids of our county. She said her medical practice always took Medicaid and took care of all kids, because they felt it was the right thing to do. She retired last year with the intention of spending more time with her grandchildren, but she could not forget the kids and families that she had cared for and loved for so many years. As a doctor, she saw the bad things that can happen to uninsured kids. She took care of lots of kids in the days when insurance companies had free reign to do whatever they wanted to do and what they did do was say they were not covering shots, speech therapy, pre-existing conditions, or mental disabilities. She said parents had no alternatives in those days and it was very difficult to deliver care to kids when only part of the care that they needed was actually going to be covered by the insurance company. She said that is her perspective of when insurance companies were able to make the rules. She stated that it did not serve our children well. She does not believe the free market will solve our healthcare problems.

Dr. Coleman said when she started reading about the plans for our healthcare reform she got worried about where we were going so she joined a non-partisan children's advocacy group called NC Child. She said Ms. Robinson also joined and they have been working together to raise awareness about the importance of healthcare coverage for children in our region. She stated that they wanted to learn more about the plans to remake our healthcare system and how it would affect our children. She learned a lot and she still has a lot to learn, because it is very complicated.

Dr. Coleman stated that the new healthcare plan is still taking shape and as far as she knows it appears to be heading for a house vote on Thursday. She said she wants to share somethings that she knows about it right now and especially how it will affect children. Over the past twenty years, North Carolina has achieved an historic high in insuring children. Ninety six percent of our kids in North Carolina are now covered with health insurance, up from 84% twenty years so. She noted that we should all be proud of this incredible progress, which has been done over multiple administrations and both sides of the isle deserve credit for it. From personal experience, it makes a big difference in the children's lives she took care of when they had health insurance. She said we cannot afford to lose the ground we have gained. She said 82,000 kids are still uninsured in North Carolina.

Dr. Coleman said appropriately, members of the house and the senate on both sides of the isle are critically analyzing the impact of the proposed American Health Care Act. Changes can still be made, but if this Bill passes as it is currently written, millions of Americans will face higher costs and lose their health insurance. She went on to say that it will hurt children and families in all 50 states. She explained that under the proposed plan a privately insured family of four in Pasquotank County, with a yearly income of \$40,000 will have to pay \$13,730 more for their health insurance than they do now because the subsidies are gone. If their family income is \$75,000, they will pay \$8,000 more per year. She said many families will have to make the hard choice to stop paying for their health insurance because they simply cannot afford it. She asked what they will do when they get sick. She said they will wait as long as they can and they will hope that they get better or they will go to the emergency room. Many of them will not be able to pay their bills at the hospital and therefore the taxpayers will pay. She stated that taxpayers will have to pay if they want to continue having a solvent hospital in our county. She said we will pay for more expensive, less efficient care that was delivered too late for a big problem that would have been treated easily as a small problem if that patient had health insurance and was able to go to the doctor. She noted that we are paying either way.

Dr. Coleman said in addition to making private insurance unaffordable for many middle income families, the bill currently before the house drastically cuts federal Medicaid funding to the states. She stated that this will blow a hole in state and county budget and leave our state's hard pressed taxpayers footing the bill. She said we have all heard about how the plan to cap Medicaid is going to give more flexibility to the states. She explained that states will get to decide who to cut and how to cut. She said the caps will be cuts mainly to kids, because most

Medicaid enrollees are kids. She stated that caps are a way for the Federal Government to save money, by withdrawing from the commitment they made 50 years ago.

In 1965, the Federal Government agreed to partner with states to insure their disabled folks and poor kids. The current bill will sorely cripple, especially our southern states. She stated that another thing you need to know about caps is they create winners and losers among the states and North Carolina will be a loser, because our state has been a good steward of its Federal Medicaid money. She noted that we do not spend nearly as much per person on our Medicaid program as some other states do. She said if the per capita caps in the American Healthcare Act are passed, our state will be penalized and provide less funding per person. Other states with more generous benefits and higher Medicaid costs will get more funding now and in the future, which she said is not fair. She asked what happens if the caps passes and there is a hurricane, an epidemic, a virus outbreak, or another recession and people lose their jobs and lose their insurance. With the caps in place, the Federal Government has essentially said no more assistance is available, so states will have to raise their taxes or make cuts in who is covered or cut back and what care is provided, or take money from other parts of the budget like education. She stated that history has taught us that unexpected, catastrophic events do happen and that is not the kind of flexibility our state will need when we are facing a crisis. Low wealth counties like ours will be the hardest hit. She said this is not a viable solution to hold down medical costs. It only shifts it to the states and to middle class families. She noted that one of the most vulnerable groups in this scenario are children with special healthcare needs. She knows people in town who have kids with disabilities or cancer or rare genetic conditions and they are really scared, because these cuts could mean life or death for their children. She asked what we can do. She stated that we are all counting on President Trump's promise that no one will lose coverage under the new healthcare plan and we believe that such a plan is possible.

Dr. Coleman asked the Board to take the time to become informed, ask questions, and reach out to our legislators, because this is the opportunity for our legislators to create a new health plan for our country that will insure our children have the best start that we can give them. She said our future in this state and every state is the generation that is coming up behind us. She said please share with our legislators that we want to continue to build on the incredible progress that has already been made and we want to finish the job. She stated that our discussion should not be about how many children are going to lose coverage, but it should be about how to cover the 82,000 kids in our state who still don't have insurance. She feels parents that can pay should pay, but kids don't get to pick their parents and they do not have the money to buy their own health insurance. She said healthy kids do better in school and in life and they grow up to be productive, taxpaying citizens.

In closing, Dr. Coleman stated that children are 7.8% of our federal budget, 25% of our population, and 100% of our future. She thanked the Board for all they do for the citizens of Pasquotank County and especially for kids. She invited the Board to the upcoming League of Women Voters meeting on Thursday, March 30th at 7:00 PM.

Commissioner Winslow said we need more competition amongst insurers in this area. Previously, we have not had a choice. This will help bring down the cost of medical care. He would like to leave here one day thinking that our youth have good medical coverage at an affordable price. He noted that the middle class cannot afford insurance or they have extremely high deductibles. He asked how these individuals will be helped. He said a lot more work needs to be done, because everyone should have the privilege of having coverage at a reasonable price.

Commissioner Meads asked if Children's Hospital of King's Daughters can refuse to see children. Dr. Coleman said the hospital cannot, but in an emergency anybody in the country can go to any hospital and get care. Unfortunately, she said that is not always the type of care that is needed. Commissioner Meads said he wanted to make it clear that children have somewhere to go. He said he knows of a family that has a Type I Diabetic who has insurance, but their deductible is not met until the last part of December. It cost them approximately \$1,000 per month for their medicine. As a business owner, he cannot pay an employee's insurance without it being taxed to them. Dr. Coleman agreed that our current plan is not perfect and there are a lot of things about it that should be improved, but she will never forget the two boys she had in her practice that were uninsured. Their parents could not afford their medicine and one of them had a bad asthma attack and died in the middle of the night. She said a hospital emergency room is not the answer to that situation. She stated that we need to do better for our kids and we can do

better. She said we should not be satisfied with any plan that reduces the number of covered kids in this country.

Vice-Chairman Sterritt stated that the Board and staff appreciate what she and Ms. Robinson are doing for our community. He said there is nothing better than grassroots effort to solve the problem. He said he is aware that it takes a lot of time, but we really appreciate their efforts.

3. COMMENTS BY HARRY THOMPSON:

Chairman Perry recognized Mr. Harry Thompson of 512 Small Drive. Mr. Thompson stated that the item he wishes to speak about is further down on the agenda, but basically, he said he has no objection to the sketch plan for Newbegun Land Subdivision, Section J.

4. COMMENTS BY JOSEPH PERSIKO:

Chairman Perry recognized Mr. Joseph Persico of 406 W. Church Street. Mr. Persico stated that he was going to rebut Dr. Terryberry's healthcare talk, but thanked Dr. Coleman for doing it for him. After he spoke at the last meeting, he had a good feeling about the County and their view on solar then he read the article in the paper today. He said it scarred him a bit, because everyone seems to be acting in concert right now, following in Currituck's footsteps. He said Perquimans is having their public hearing tonight on a possible moratorium, Camden is meeting tonight on the possible moratorium, and Pasquotank's Board is working on new regulations. He feels we are going in the wrong direction. He stated that everyone always talks about smaller government, but the Board is putting more regulations on solar panels. He said he thinks it should be up to the landowner what he can do with his land.

Mr. Persico noted that .2% of our land in North Carolina is used for solar panels. He said each site is about 34 acres and they make tons of energy. He reported that North Carolina receives about \$7 billion a year in revenue from solar energy and he personally spoke with the Solar Energy Association today and they are not coming to places that are regulating, because they do not want to spend their money in a place where they have to spend extra money.

Commissioner Griffin said North Carolina is 4th in the U.S. in solar production. Mr. Persico asked since when. Commissioner Griffin answered less than nine months ago. Mr. Persico informed Commissioner Griffin that those numbers have been updated since that time, because we have had many solar farms established since that time. Commissioner Griffin explained that the Board is concerned about landowners' properties looking like Fort Knox, with chain linked fences on three sides of their property. He said the Board is trying to protect the landowner's value, not regulating the solar panels. Mr. Persico said economic studies have been done that the area as a whole around solar farms gains value. Commissioner Griffin said the Board's discussion today was based on setbacks and land use; it was not based on the number of solar panels that could be built on a property. Mr. Persico said when the area as a whole grows in value he thinks it is a good thing. Commissioner Griffin stated that the power that is produced in Northeastern North Carolina is on the Dominion Power system and North Carolina does not get credit for its production. The power that North Carolina gets credit for is what Duke puts on their grid throughout the southeastern, central and western part of the state. He noted that we are giving up land here for someone else to benefit. He said the Board is here to protect the landowner's rights. If the landowner chooses to put solar panels on his property that is fine, but they need to protect all who are involved.

Vice-Chairman Sterritt informed Mr. Persico that the Board is with him and they want fewer smoke stacks. He told Mr. Persico to keep up the good work. Mr. Persico said at one point in the past power lines were an eyesore and he bets that no one even notices them now.

5. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR EARTH DAY:

Chairman Perry asked Mr. Russel Haddad, Special Assistant to the Chancellor/University Project Manager at Elizabeth City State University and ECSU Student Government Association President Ajanae Willis to accept a proclamation for Earth Day. He read and presented the following proclamation to Mr. Haddad and Ms. Willis:

2017 EARTH DAY PROCLAMATION

PASQUOTANK COUNTY

Whereas, Planet Earth is facing a grave crisis which only people of Earth can resolve, and the delicate balances of nature, essential for our survival, can only be saved through a global effort involving all of us; and

Whereas, An international Earth Day each year can provide a special time to draw people together in appreciation of their mutual home, Planet Earth, and bring a global feeling of a healthy community and sustainability through realization of our deepening desire for life, freedom, love, and our mutual dependence on each other; and

Whereas, Through voluntary action, individuals can join with one another in building the Earth in harmony with nature and promoting support of those activities by private and government agencies; and

Whereas, Individuals and groups may follow different methods and programs in Earthkeeping and Earthbuilding, nevertheless by constant friendly communication with other groups and daily meditation on the meaning of peace and goodwill they will tend more and more to be creative, sensitive, experimental, and flexible in resolving differences with others; and

Whereas, Elizabeth City State University, Port Discover Hands-on Science Center for Northeastern North Carolina, the City of Elizabeth City, and Pasquotank County inspire many organizations to host eco-friendly and healthy initiatives to help raise awareness of environmental, health, and sustainable life issues during the month of April.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, That all citizens and businesses in the City of Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County are encouraged to participate in healthy and sustainable activities this week, and throughout the year, to make Pasquotank County healthy and environmentally friendly.

Mr. Haddad invited the Board and the general public to the Earth Day Event scheduled for April 22nd. Ms. Willis said the relationship between the student body at ECSU and the County is very important and there is a push on campus to become more politically involved. She said proclamations like this are a really good start. She thanked the Board for all the work they do. She charged the Board to continue to push for that sort of partnership, because it will make our area better. She said if anyone in the room needs anything please feel free to contact her because they are a very diverse group of people who are super open to challenging and pushing for solutions for diverse issues. She said they are here as a partner.

6. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Perry asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Vice-Chairman Sterritt requested that the following recommendations from the Finance Committee be added to the consent agenda: 1) Approval of Mission Critical Partners Contract Amendment, 2) Approval of Pay Grade/Step for Paramedic position hire, and 3) Approval of Clearing and Snagging contracts.

Motion was made by Bill Sterritt, seconded by Joe Winslow to amend the agenda as requested. The motion carried unanimously.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of March 6, 2017 Commissioner Meeting

b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds and Solid Waste Fee Releases

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following releases and refunds:

Tax Releases

		County	City
1.	Shirley Wilson	146.07	

Tax Refunds

		County	City
1.	Joseph Berry Life Estate - 2014	136.04	
2.	Joseph Berry Life Estate - 2015	136.04	

3.	Joseph Berry Life Estate - 2016	136.04	
4.	Larry K. & Dianne S. Welch 2012	162.44	
5.	Larry K. & Dianne S. Welch 2013	165.06	
6.	Larry K. & Dianne S. Welch 2014	199.12	
7.	Larry K. & Dianne S. Welch 2015	199.12	
8.	Larry K. & Dianne S. Welch 2016	199.12	
9.	Larry K. & Dianne S. Welch 2014	111.72	
10.	Larry K. & Dianne S. Welch 2015	111.72	
11.	Larry K. & Dianne S. Welch 2016	111.72	

Solid Waste Fee Releases

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Terry Brent & Teleda Meads	P6-21A	Vacant
2.	Justin M. Bowen	P117-6	Vacant

c. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

EMS

Increase	010.0400.4437.00	Ambulance Fees	22,285.00
Increase	010.4370.5700.16	Debt Service	22,285.00

EMS

Increase	010.0400.4437.00	Ambulance Fees	15,000.00
Increase	010.4370.5500.00	Capital Outlay	15,000.00

Non -Departmental

Decrease	010.6900.5991.00	Contingency	12,382.00
Increase	010.4195.5184.00	Flex Benefit Fees	467.00
Increase	010.4195.5185.00	Unemployment Reserve	8,096.00
Increase	010.4195.5186.00	Workers' Comp	3,819.00

Public Buildings

Increase	010.0600.4930.00	Insurance Proceeds	500,000.00
Increase	010.4190.5351.02	Maintenance – Old ECMS	500,000.00

d. Approval of Amendments to Contracts with Volunteer Fire Departments

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the revised Volunteer Fire Department contracts.

e. Approval of Mission Critical Partners Contract Agreement

The Finance Committee has recommended approval to amend the contract between Pasquotank County and Mission Critical Partners (MCP) dated December 21, 2017, whereby MCP would provide North Carolina State 911 Grant Support and Technology Integration for the back-up PSAP. The contract will increase by \$25,000 to perform additional support for a Paging system Simulcast Enhancement Project, the transition and migration to the State VIPER system, and the temporary back-up PSAP solution. Funds will be paid from grant funds already approved by the 911 Board.

f. Approval of Pay Grade/Step for Paramedic Position Hire

The Finance Committee has recommended approval to hire Jamar Whitaker as a full-time paramedic beginning April 1, 2017 at Grade 19, Step 7 rate of \$41,647. The step was determined based on the applicant having been a paramedic for 11 years.

g. Approval of Clearing and Snagging Contracts

The Finance Committee has recommended approval to allow the county manager to execute three (3) contracts for clearing and snagging: 1) J & J Environmental, LLC - \$45,742.02, 2) Kenneth Allen - \$42,681.35, and 3) David Layne - \$38,518.65. Approval of the contracts is subject to receiving state funding.

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

8. APPROVAL OF SKETCH PLAN FOR NEWBEGUN LAND SUBDIVISION, SECTION J:

The Board considered the sketch plan for Newbegun Land Subdivision, Section J. Planning Director Shelley Cox explained the property is on the east and west side of Small Drive north of its intersection with Blimp View Drive in Nixonton Township. Newbegun Land, LLC is the developer of the subdivision. E.T. Hyman Surveying is representing Newbegun Land, LLC. Ms. Cox advised that Section J consists of 6 residential lots. The property is zoned R-15 and lot sizes are proposed to range from 1.482 acres to 3.509 acres. Under the current school districting, students generated from this development would attend J.C. Sawyer Elementary, River Road Middle and Northeastern High School. Weeksville Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection for this area. This area is served by the Pasquotank County water system. On-site septic systems are proposed to be utilized at this location. The area requested for Sketch Plan approval is primarily located within Flood Zone AE (100 year) according to the current flood maps. Ms. Cox advised that the Technical Review Committee met on February 1, 2017 to review this proposal and no major concerns regarding the proposal were noted. She said the sketch plan meets all the minimum requirements within the Subdivision Ordinance. She advised that staff recommends approval as proposed. On Thursday, February 23, 2017 the Planning Board reviewed the request and recommended approval of the sketch plan.

Commissioner Griffin asked if Greg Johnson has reviewed the plan. Ms. Cox said Mr. Johnson preliminarily reviewed the plan however with this sketch plan there were not a lot of drainage details to review. He noted that since this is directly on the river and the outlet is right there, the drainage requirements will be very minimal.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Joe Winslow to approve the sketch plan for Newbegun Land Subdivision, Section J as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER:

County Manager Rodney Bunch reported the following:

Christy Saunders recently submitted Letters of Interest (LOI) to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for damaged properties as a result of Hurricane Matthew. Twelve LOIs were submitted – one elevation application, one demolition/reconstruction and ten acquisitions. The deadline for submission is March 31st. Christy will work with additional property owners that might submit applications until that date.

I attended the Installation ceremony for Dr. Thomas E.H. Conway, Jr. as the sixth Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University held Friday, March 10, 2017.

North Carolina Association of County Commissioners District Meeting will be in Tyrrell County Thursday, April 27th beginning at 5:30 pm. County Assembly Day will be held Wednesday, May 10th.

Chairman Perry, Vice-Chairman Sterritt and staff will meet with Patrice Roesler and Neil Emory with the NCACC Thursday to plan for our Board Retreat.

10. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Parker attended the Installation of Dr. Thomas Conway, Jr. as the Eleventh Chief Executive Officer and Sixth Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University on March 10th. On March 14th, she attended the Trillium Northern Regional Advisory Board Meeting. On Friday, March 17th, she attended the Pasquotank County Special Projects Committee Meeting.

Commissioner Griffin attended the Albemarle Commission Meeting last week. He reported that Marc Basnight's son-in-law is being considered as the replacement for Malcolm Ferring, NC Division I Transportation Representative. He will be attending the Airport Authority Meeting next Wednesday.

Commissioner Dixon attended the Special Projection Committee Meeting on Friday. He said they discussed four items: 1) E cigarettes/vapors in public buildings, 2) golf carts on public streets, 3) revision to courthouse and meeting room use policy, and 4) county welcome signs. He said the proposal was to add E cigarettes/vapors to the current smoking policy for public

buildings, particularly the courthouse. The committee also discussed the possibility of banning smoking in front of the courthouse and the possibility of a designated smoking area. Staff will come back with a recommendation. A person from the Newbegun Land HOA requested a golf cart ordinance. He noted that most counties surrounding us have golf cart ordinances, but we do not. The committee recommended developing an ordinance that would designate specific subdivisions. He said the ordinance will pretty much tailor Camden's. A permit will have to be obtained through the Sheriff's Department and a fee of \$25 will be charged. Attorney Cox will work on the request. He said the Committee recommended charging \$25 per hour for security to anyone who reserves a room in the courthouse on weekends and/or afterhours. He said the committee also discussed the possibility of placing welcome signs in two locations. Staff was instructed to look into it and come back with a recommendation. Commissioner Griffin suggested putting Free Trade Zone on the signage.

Chairman Perry attended the Legacy Award at Elizabeth City State University. He attended a Jazz Concert at the Arts of the Albemarle. He asked if individuals have to sign an application to reserve a room in the courthouse. Mr. Bunch said an application must be filled out. He stated that the library has their own policy. Attorney Cox noted that no one is discriminated against if they meet the criteria of the policy.

Commissioner Winslow attended the Jail Board Meeting. He reported that the jail is doing great financially.

Mr. Bunch reminded everyone of Mike Etheridge's retirement celebration for his 29 years of service to Pasquotank County on Thursday March 23rd at 4:00 PM.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Attorney Cox reported on revenues from solar farms and wind turbines. He said the Barnhill Solar Farm was assessed at \$6.5 million and the County took in just under \$50,000 in taxes. The windfarm was projected to take in approximately \$250,000. He does not have the latest numbers but will provide them when they are available.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Bettie Parker to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD