

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 1, 2019**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, April 1, 2019 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Dixon, Chairman
Lloyd E. Griffin, III, Vice-Chairman
Cecil Perry
Frankie Meads
Charles H. Jordan
Sean Lavin
Barry Overman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Dixon. Vice-Chairman Griffin gave the invocation and The Center Players led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Dixon welcomed everyone present.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Dixon asked if there were any amendments to the agenda.

Finance Committee Chairman Lloyd Griffin requested that the agenda be amended to add the following items recommended by the Finance Committee today to the Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of starting salary above hiring rate for Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Hire; 2) Approval of starting salary above hiring rate for full time EMT; and 3) Approval of \$1,300,000 loan with TowneBank for HVAC replacement at Northside Elementary School.

Chairman Dixon requested moving Item 8A from New Business to the last item of business.

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Charles Jordan to amend the agenda to add Items 1, 2, and 3 above to the Consent Agenda and to move Item 8A from New Business to the last item of business. The motion carried unanimously.

2. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR 2019 SPRING LITTER SWEEP:

Chairman Dixon recognized members of the Center Players who performed an original song and dance about picking up litter. He read and presented the following proclamation:

Proclamation

**2019 Spring LITTER SWEEP
County-Wide Spring Cleanup
April 13-27, 2019**

Whereas, Pasquotank County is rich in beauty and natural resources; and

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners of Pasquotank County strives to improve the quality of life in our community through enhanced community awareness, education and public/private partnerships working together on projects that keep our environment clean and free of debris, beautify our neighborhoods and public spaces, and instill pride and a senses of ownership in our community; and

Whereas, Pasquotank County citizens realize a cleanup effort is needed to display pride in our community for ourselves, our visitors, and for business prospects; and

Whereas, all people, regardless of race, gender, income, or geography, have a moral right to a healthy, sustainable environment with economic growth; and

Whereas, all residents of Pasquotank County have a citizenship responsibility to protect and care for the beauty and natural resources of Pasquotank County, and a countywide cleanup campaign will encourage individuals to participate in the improvement of their community's environment through the three main focus areas of litter prevention, waste reductions and recycling, and beautification;

Whereas, Governor Roy Cooper has proclaimed April 13-27, 2019 as Litter Sweep time in North Carolina in conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Transportation Biannual Cleanup Drive; then

Now, Therefore, Be It Proclaimed, that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners proclaim **April 13-27, 2019 as Pasquotank County Spring LITTER SWEEP** in Pasquotank County, North Carolina, and encourages all communities, civic and professional groups, businesses, churches, schools, families and individual citizens to take an active role in making the communities in Pasquotank County a more beautiful place to live, work and play.

Given under my hand this 1st day of April, 2019.

3. **PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION IN SUPPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:**

Chairman Dixon recognized Dr. Nita Coleman, Phil Donahue, and members of Green Saves Green to accept the following proclamation in support of Environmental Sustainability. He read and presented the following proclamation:

Proclamation

In Support of Environmental Sustainability

WHEREAS, the County of Pasquotank acknowledges that the difficult challenges facing the world represent great opportunities to support the values of self-sufficiency, economic vitality, and respect for the environment; and

WHEREAS, the County of Pasquotank recognizes that it desires a prosperous, sustainable future for current and coming generations; and

WHEREAS, the County of Pasquotank wishes to support its own sustainability goals in the community, as well as those of federal and state governments to take full advantage of opportunities such as program funding, support, and resources; and

WHEREAS, the County of Pasquotank recognizes that it will take the collective goodwill and determined work of citizens, educators, students, businesses, civic organizations, households, and government in order to become a more sustainable community; and

WHEREAS, the County of Pasquotank strives to be part of a more sustainable community through efforts to reduce pollution, limit the degradation or destruction of ecosystems, reduce the carbon footprint produced by energy use, and reduce conditions that undermine people's capacity to lead productive, healthy, and civically engaged lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners does hereby declare itself part of an aspiring sustainable community by endorsing the values, principles and practices of sustainability, and agrees to seek opportunities for collaboration, communication, and partnerships in joint suitability efforts.

ADOPTED, this 1st day of April, 2019.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PURCHASE OF DAILY ADVANCE BUILDING FOR NEW SENIOR CENTER:

Chairman Dixon explained that the Board deferred approving purchase of the *Daily Advance* building for use as a Senior Center and entering into an interlocal agreement with the City of Elizabeth City until the Board had the opportunity to hear comments from the County's senior citizen population. He said at the last meeting commissioners voiced several concerns regarding relocating the Senior Center to the old *Daily Advance* Building. He said County Manager Hammett provided answers to those questions at today's Finance Committee meeting, which he feels satisfied the Board. At this time he would like to allow those individuals who signed up to speak to do so.

Chairman Dixon recognized Paris Sessoms of 1112 Parkview Drive. Mr. Sessoms said there have been some complaints about transforming the *Daily Advance* into a new Senior Center. Frankly, he has no complaints at all. He feels there are several entrances that can be used and there is adequate parking. The current facility is like his second home, but it is very overcrowded. He encouraged the Board to not hesitate about entering into an agreement with the City to purchase the building, because he cannot think of a better location to have a Senior Center facility.

Chairman Dixon recognized Joan Mercer of 1203 Salem Church Road who said she is here to make a plea for purchase of the *Daily Advance* building for a new senior center also. She said the seniors are in desperate need of their own space. Currently, they are overcrowded, and every time something is going on at Knobbs Creek, they take their chairs, tables, computers, and space. The *Daily Advance* building is very affordable for the size and location of the building. She feels the move will also help with vitalization of downtown.

Chairman Dixon called on Richard Williams of 306 Pinewood Avenue. Mr. Williams stated that the Senior Center is a blessing for seniors. It is a good place for fun, fellowship, relaxation, and exercise. He stated that the more space they have the better. He is a little concerned about parking, but he was told there will be safe parking. He has confidence that Elizabeth City is going to take care of its senior citizens.

Chairman Dixon recognized Joe Stuter of 109 Old Oak Road. Mr. Stuter said the main reason he feels we should proceed with purchase of the *Daily Advance* building is because it has more space. He thinks we will see a lot more people come to the building because it is bigger, more adequate, and is in a great location. He thanked Pasquotank County for taking care of its seniors, noting there were no programs available where he came from.

Chairman Dixon stated that there are several senior citizens in the audience who did not sign up to speak. He asked, by a show of hands, how many of them are in favor of the Senior Center move. The citizens unanimously raised their hands in favor of the move.

Vice-Chairman Griffin asked how many individuals attend the current center on a daily basis. Senior Center Director Lauren Turner answered between 65 and 80. She went on to say if they have a pool tournament and another activity scheduled on the same day, you cannot get down the hallways. The lobby will be full on trip days. The lunch room is extremely small. There are only eight exercise machines, which often have a waiting line. She said often she has to cancel activities because of other activities or rentals going on. She cancelled all her exercise classes this week because of a quilt show. They want to have more programs, but until they get more space, they are stuck. She said build it and they will come.

Commission Lavin thanked Manager Hammett for providing answers to concerns the Board and public had previously. He also thanked Senior Center staff and Parks & Recreation staff for participating and organizing a tour of the *Daily Advance* Building. Since the last meeting, some Board members have had the opportunity to visit other possible locations, which really drove home that this is the best location.

Commissioner Meads said he visited the current center three times since the last meeting. He talked to individuals, and the perspective he received from the majority of the people is they prefer staying where they are. He noted that the poolroom and the exercise room were crowded, but they prefer to stay there because of the parking. He said he cannot support a 30% increase in the Parks & Recreation budget.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Charles Jordan to approve moving forward with purchase of the *Daily Advance* building for a new Senior Center and to enter into an interlocal agreement with the City of Elizabeth City for operation of the center. The motion carried 6 to 1, with Commissioner Meads voting against the motion.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of March 18,2019 Commissioner Meeting

b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax release, tax refund and solid waste fee releases:

Tax Release

		County	City
1.	Elizabeth City Brick Co.		213.08

Tax Refund

		County	City
1.	3 in 1 Inc.	531.30	451.95

Solid Waste Fee Releases

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Lassiter Construction Co.	P97-26	Vacant
2.	Elaine H. Van Duren	23-P-8	Vacant

c. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

Non-Departmental

Increase	010.0230.4370.00	State Grants	96,835.00
Increase	010.4195.5600.14	COA-Boardwalk	96,835.00

To appropriate funds for Phase II of the project (\$92,835) and application for Phase III (\$4,000).

d. Approval of Family Subdivisiion Request FS 19-03 by Willie Sharber

Staff recommends approval of Family Subdivision request FS 19-03 by Willie Sharber. Mr. Sharber has applied to create four gift lots for his daughters; Golden Rogers, Zara Sharber, Shellie Armstrong, and Tiena Scroggs, in accordance with Article 5, Section 303 of the Pasquotank County Subdivision Ordinance. Road frontage is provided to the proposed parcels off of Millpond Road in Newland Township. Birth certificates have bene provided as documentation that the plat qualifies as a family subdivision and septic evaluations have been completed by Albemarle Regional Health Services. Staff advised that this request meets the minimum requirements for a family subdivision and recommends approval.

e. Approval of \$3,500 Contribution for North Carolina Potato Festival

The Finance Committee has recommended funding for the Potato Festival from the Occupancy Tax Fund in the amount of \$3,500.

f. Approval of Lease Extension with Medical Services of America for Space Located at Edgewood Center

Staff has recommended the Board approve a proposed 1-year lease extension agreement between Pasquotank County and Medical Services of the America for office space at 1407 Parkview Drive. The conditions of the lease will remain the same, with the exception of the term.

g. Approval of Resolution in Support of the Current ABC Control System for the Sale of Liquor

The Finance Committee has recommended adoption of the following resolution which supports the current ABC Control System for the sale of liquor:

RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF THE CURRENT ABC CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE SALE OF
LIQUOR

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Pasquotank County voted to permit the sale of liquor through the establishment of an ABC Board, which is a part of the North Carolina's control system for the sale of spirituous liquors;

WHEREAS, North Carolina is a "control" state and private retail liquor stores are prohibited;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly's nonpartisan Program Evaluation Division (PED) was directed to examine whether other systems for alcohol beverage control, including privatized systems, are appropriate for North Carolina, specially to include the State of Washington, which recently changed its beverage control system from state government control of wholesale and retail control of spirituous liquor to a licensure model;

WHEREAS, The PED Report, "Changing How North Carolina Controls Liquor Sales Has Operational, Regulatory, and Financial Ramifications", released on February 11, 2019, (1) did not recommend privatization, (2) found that among the southeastern states, NC collects the most revenue per gallon, has the lowest outlet density and has the second lowest per capita consumption; and (3) the PED expects retail liquor consumption to increase by 20% with privatization.

WHEREAS, for fiscal year ending 2018, local ABC boards distributed \$430,635,861: County-City Distributions \$80 million; State General Fund \$323 million; Local Alcohol Education/Treatment \$13 million; Local Law Enforcement \$8.8 million; Rehabilitation Services \$5 million; Operation of ABC Commission/Warehouse \$17.7 million.

WHEREAS, North Carolina is unique as it allows communities to vote to establish local ABC boards for the sale of liquor in their communities, with liquor profits distributed back to those communities, thereby reducing the need to increase local property taxes.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Pasquotank County in voting to permit the operation of ABC stores, did not vote to allow spirits to be sold in private retail liquor stores and did not vote to allow spirits to be sold retail outlets where beer and wine are sold;

WHEREAS, No State funds are spent to distribute or sell liquor as the state and local operation of the ABC system is receipt supported;

WHEREAS, Of the 50 states, North Carolina ranks 44th lowest in consumption per capita and 7th highest in revenue per capita and NC's ABC system accomplishes both revenue and public health, welfare and safety objectives;

WHEREAS, when Washington State privatized its liquor system the number of retail outlets increased from 328 to over 1400, hours of sale/week increased from 73 to 140 hours, and Washington State received only \$30.75 million from auctioning off the rights to apply for retail spirits permits at 167 stores;

WHEREAS, privatization will result in a marked increase in the number of outlets, longer hours of sale, greater advertising and more promotion and significantly more consumption; and the 9,000 outlets in NC that sell beer/wine off-premises could be permitted to sell liquor in a privatized system;

WHEREAS, local revenue from ABC stores operations is important to the
Town/City/County;

WHEREAS, local control over the sale of liquor is an important

function. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That Pasquotank County desires to retain North Carolina's current control system for the sale of liquor and believes that privatization of liquor will lead to many adverse effects.

ADOPTED this 1st day of April, 2019

h. Approval of Starting Salary above Hiring Rate for Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Hire

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the starting salary for a Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Hire at Pay Grade 15, Step 10 - \$39,023 due to the applicant's experience, training, and current salary in a directly related position.

i. Approval of Starting Salary above Hiring Rate for Full time EMT

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the starting salary for an Advanced EMT Hire at Grade 16, Step 9 - \$40,031 due to the applicants 17 years of verifiable EMS experience.

j. Approval of \$1,300,000 Loan with TowneBank for HVAC Replacement at Northside Elementary School

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a \$1,300,000 loan with TownBank for the HVAC replacement at Northside Elementary School at an interest rate of 2.93%, as well as adoption of a resolution approving the financing terms.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Barry Overman to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Overman attended the Central Communications Board meeting. For lack of participation, the board has changed their regular meeting schedule to every other month. In addition, he attended the Public Safety and DSS Board meetings.

Commissioner Jordan joined Solid Waste Director, Brad Gardner on a trip to Currituck County to attend a meeting with several other counties to talk about recycling alternatives. He made remarks on behalf of the County at a ceremony recognizing Coach Bobby Barnes. He also attended an event at Cornerstone Church where he was able to talk with members of the youth program.

Vice-Chairman Griffin provided an update on Airport and Albemarle Commission activities. He reminded the Board that tomorrow is the grand opening for the new Oregon Inlet Bridge. Last week, he attended the Legislative Day Forum, which he thought was a great effort.

Commissioner Lavin said he attended several meetings including the Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, EC Downtown, joint Board of Education meeting, new commissioner orientation, and the Legislative Day Forum.

Commissioner Meads stated that he did not attend the Legislative Day Forum because he recently spent time in the legislator's office speaking with them. He stated that Currituck County has no debt and Perquimans County only has a small amount of debt, and their taxes are in the 50s. He said if we bring our taxes down, it would encourage business to locate here.

Commissioner Perry attended the JCPC meeting, the joint Board of Education meeting, the Legislative Day Forum, and will be attending the Jail Board meeting at the end of the month.

Chairman Dixon said he attended several of the same meetings and events mentioned by his fellow board members.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Frankie Meads to enter Closed Session per [NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)] to discuss personnel matters. The motion carried unanimously.

At the end of Closed Session;

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Frankie Meads to return to regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dixon 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 Sean Lavin to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD