

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 2, 2012**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, April 2, 2012 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lloyd E. Griffin, III, Chairman
Jeff Dixon, Vice-Chairman
Bill Trueblood
Cecil Perry
Dr. William R. Sterritt
Gary G. White
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Lloyd Griffin. Chairman Griffin gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

1. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR FAIR HOUSING MONTH:

Chairman Griffin called on Mr. George Bright, Fair Housing Chairman for the Albemarle Area Association of Realtors, to accept a proclamation for Fair Housing Month. He read and presented the following proclamation to Mr. Bright and to representatives from Northeastern Community Development Corporation and River City Community Development Corporation:

**PROCLAMATION
FAIR HOUSING MONTH
APRIL 2012**

WHEREAS, April 2012 marks the 44th anniversary of the Federal Housing Act of 1968 and the 29th anniversary of the North Carolina Fair Housing Act - both laws prohibiting discrimination in housing because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin; and

WHEREAS, the work to make fair housing opportunities possible for all citizens is a shared effort by the Albemarle Area Association of Realtors®, the City of Elizabeth City Community Development Office, the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Community Relations Commission, the Elizabeth City State University Community Development Program, the Northeastern Community Development Corporation, the Pasquotank County Office of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, the River City Community Development Corporation, concerned citizens as well as county and local governments; and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of all these individuals and entities, others are encouraged to abide by the letter and the spirit of the fair housing laws; and

WHEREAS, one of the most important concerns of the citizens of Pasquotank County is the availability of housing for them and their families; and

WHEREAS, support for and promotion of fair housing and equal opportunity contributes to the health and welfare of our cities, counties, state and nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims April 2012 as "Fair Housing Month" in Pasquotank County and urges our citizens to rededicate themselves to ensuring that fair housing laws are always upheld and our citizens protected against discrimination.

Mr. Bright thanked the Board for proclaiming Fair Housing Month. He said the Fair Housing Act was passed in 1968 as part of the Civil Rights Act, and after forty-four years there are still issues regarding fair housing. He informed the Board that last year the combined effort of all local, state, and national agencies in responding to fair housing complaints amounted to a little over 10,000 complaints. Additionally, private agencies like River City CDC, Northeastern CDC, area realtors, and others dealt with over 18,000 fair housing complaints. He said when the government is not able to step in and protect individuals on the basis of the fair housing laws, these agencies are doing it and are doing it every day. Mr. Bright added that he appreciates the Board's concerns and its proclamation that gets the news out that the people of the community deserve safe, affordable housing that is not based on any kind of discrimination.

2. PRESENTATION OF PIN TO EMPLOYEE FOR YEARS OF SERVICE:
Chairman Griffin called on Mr. W.T. Harris, a 15-year Deputy in the Sheriff's Department, to accept his 15-year service pin. The Board congratulated Mr. Harris and thanked him for his years of service to Pasquotank County.

3. LAND TRANSFER TAX APPEAL BY EDGAR AND TRACI MITCHELL:
Commissioner Joe Winslow stated that he has a business relationship with the parties involved and he requested that he be recused from considering this appeal.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Gary White to recuse Commissioner Winslow from considering the Land Transfer Tax Appeal by Edgar and Traci Mitchell. The motion carried unanimously.

The Clerk swore in the members of the Board of Commissioners to serve as the Land Transfer Tax Appeals Board. County Attorney Mike Cox gave some background information and explained that when property is transferred in the county, a 1% land transfer tax must be paid to the Tax Collector. He stated that the statute which created the transfer tax states that anyone who is liable for a tax under the act who disputes the amount of tax shall pay the tax stated by the Tax Collector to be due, but may appeal the payment of the tax to the Land Transfer Tax Appeals Board by filing a written notice, which has been done. The notice shall state the reason for the appeal and the amount of the tax the appellant contends is due.

Ms. Traci Mitchell of 1336 Possum Quarter Road explained that she and her sister recently sold a lot at Ferry Point, had the deed recorded, and paid the \$300 land transfer tax. She said after doing so they realized that the deed recorded was for Lot 5 when the actual lot sold was Lot 7. She stated that they re-submitted the correct paperwork to change it from Lot 5 to Lot 7 as it should have been and were charged a second land transfer tax of \$400 and were told they would not get a refund of the original amount. Ms. Mitchell said it does not seem fair that they would have to pay twice for correcting a transcription error. She stated that they continue to own Lot 5 and hope to sell it in the future at which time the transfer tax will be owed. She requested that the original \$300 land transfer tax paid for Lot 5 be refunded or that they be given credit for the \$300 to be applied when Lot 5 is eventually sold. Ms. Mitchell had also provided a letter to Chairman Griffin offering the credit as a compromise.

The Board discussed the request and Commissioner Trueblood offered a motion to provide a \$300 credit toward the future sale of Lot 5. Members of the Board commented that they felt it would be cleaner to just refund the \$300 rather than hold it in escrow until the lot is sold. The motion was withdrawn.

Motion was made by Cecil Perry, seconded by Jeff Dixon to refund to Edgar & Traci Mitchell and Kevin & Kelly Winslow the \$300 land transfer tax that was paid when Lot 5 in Ferry Point was transferred in error. The motion carried unanimously.

The Land Transfer Tax Appeals Board was adjourned.

4. VIDEO PRESENTATION REGARDING ALBEMARLE HOSPITAL:
The Board viewed a DVD containing three television commercials that Albemarle Hospital will use in its new marketing and education campaign "Extraordinary Care, Close to Home". The DVD featured some of Albemarle Hospital's physicians, staff and technology, as well as several locations in the community, and focused on breast health, diagnostic imaging, and surgery.

5. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Griffin asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. It was requested that the agenda be amended to add the following items recommended by the Finance Committee: 1) Approval of requests for funding from Occupancy Tax Fund; 2) Approval of increase in county match for Home and Community Care Block Grant funds; 3) Approval of late property tax exemption application; 4) Approval of Extension of ServiceMaster cleaning contract for the Social Services Building; 5) Approval of amendment to grass-mowing contract for tower sites; 6) Approval of change in site plan stormwater reviews; 7) Approval of proposal for remaining 911 surcharge funds; and 8) Approval of contract extension for sales tax re-allocation.

Motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Joe Winslow to approve the amendments to the agenda as presented and to add items 1 through 8 to the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of March 19, 2012 Commissioner Meetings

b. Approval of Tax Releases and Solid Waste Fee Releases

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

Releases:

	County	City
1. Phillip Donald Walker, Jr.	166.59	
2. Roman G. Staten	127.66	100.74
3. Michael Todd Evans	147.81	
4. George Marinkov, Jr.	125.30	
5. Cornelius Edward Cummings, IV	137.45	
6. Mathew Alan Malo	136.90	

Solid Waste Fees:

OWNER'S NAME	PARCEL ID#	REASON FOR RELEASE
Jose Luis Sagrego Matias	58-A-78	No one lives in house
Jeff Overton, Jr. Heirs	P67-44	Vacant for 30 years

c. Approval of Proposal from Albemarle RC&D

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a proposal from Albemarle Resource Conservation & Development Council to continue the annual contribution of \$1,200 to help support ARCD operational expenses as well as a rate of \$50 per hour for project planning and development, grant writing, and project administration for any projects that are requested by Pasquotank County.

d. Approval of Sole Source Purchase of Recorder for Central Communications

The Central Communications Advisory Board has recommended the sole source purchase of a new 72-channel recording system to replace the current 48-channel recorder which has reached the end of its life cycle. By purchasing a recorder from the same vendor, there would be a seamless transition and it would provide access to all previously recorded information. The total cost of the new recording system with the trade-in allowance is \$56,055 and the funds can be taken from the 911 surcharge fund.

e. Approval of Requests for Funding from Occupancy Tax Fund

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board allocate \$5,000 from Pasquotank County's Occupancy Tax account to help sponsor the Fourth of July Fireworks at Waterfront Park.

The Finance Committee has also recommended an allocation of \$1,500 from the Occupancy Tax account for the seventh annual International Cup Regatta on the Pasquotank River.

f. Approval of Increase in County Match for Home and Community Care Block Grant Funds

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a local match of \$977 for an increase of \$19,411 in Home and Community Care Block Grant funds which will be used for transportation, adult day healthcare, and the Senior Nutrition Program.

g. Approval of Late Property Tax Exemption Application

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a late property tax exemption application submitted by Salem Baptist Church for its parsonage which is an allowable exemption. The application was submitted after the close of the listing period and therefore requires approval from the Board of Commissioners.

h. Approval of Extension of ServiceMaster Cleaning Contract for Social Services Building
The Finance Committee has recommended that the contract with ServiceMaster for cleaning the Social Services Building be extended for a two-year period beginning July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014 with no increase in cost.

i. Approval of Amendment to Grass-Mowing Contract for Tower Sites

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of an amendment to the grass-mowing contract with the contractor who mows several other county sites to mow the Navy tower site, the Wellfield tower site, and the Fire Tower Road site. The communications staff has been mowing these sites themselves. The contractor has agreed to amend their contract to mow these three additional sites for \$175 per month. The total for the year would be \$1,400 based on eight mowings per year. The cost would be added to the Central Communications budget which is shared with Elizabeth City and Camden County.

j. Approval of Change in Site Plan Stormwater Reviews

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve employing Mr. Greg Johnson as a temporary employee for the purpose of providing site plan stormwater reviews and other stormwater-related projects on an as-needed basis at the rate of \$97 per hour.

k. Approval of Proposal for Remaining 911 Surcharge Funds

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a proposal to expend \$198,100 of the remaining \$226,000 in 911 surcharge funds to be used for public safety purposes. The funds need to be spent by June 30, 2012. The list of projects was proposed by representatives from the county, the city, and Camden County.

l. Approval of Contract Extension for Sales Tax Reallocation

The Finance Committee has recommended renewal of the contract with TRS for performing a sales tax reallocation audit. The company works on commission and is only paid if they determine that there is additional sales tax to be reallocated to Pasquotank County from other counties.

Motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Jeff Dixon to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

7. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INSTITUTION OF TOLLS ON FERRY SERVICE OPERATIONS TO AND FROM OCRACOKE ISLAND OR THE INCREASE IN EXISTING TOLLS:

The Board considered a request by Albemarle Commission to adopt a resolution opposing the institution of ferry service tolls or the increase of existing tolls to and from Ocracoke Island.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Joe Winslow to adopt the following resolution opposing the institution of tolls on ferry service operations to and from Ocracoke Island or the increase in existing tolls. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Ocracoke Island, located in Hyde County, is the State's only barrier island with no alternate form of public transportation infrastructure provided to them in return for the payment of State tax dollars; and

WHEREAS, the continuance of a toll-free ferry service is guaranteed to residents in North Carolina by General Statute 136-89.197; and

WHEREAS, Hyde County is among the poorest counties in North Carolina as indicated by their Tier 1 designation; and

WHEREAS, placing tolls and/or increasing tolls on existing ferry service would create a financial hardship for local residents, and would impede their ability to obtain supplies and other services necessary to maintain their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners opposes placing tolls and/or increasing tolls on existing ferry service for the residents of Ocracoke Island and the suppliers of goods to the island; and

WHEREAS, tourism is the leading industry on Ocracoke Island and the addition or increase of tolls, coupled with decreased ferry runs, would threaten the capability of businesses and working families to earn a living; and

WHEREAS, this loss in revenue to the citizens of Hyde County would also result in loss of revenue to the State of North Carolina, and would negatively impact the economy, the cultural, and the overall well-being of the entire State; and

WHEREAS, 6,013 acres of Ocracoke Island's total acreage of 6,429 acres is part of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and is owned by the Federal government.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes imposing new tolls on ferry service to or from Ocracoke Island, and also opposes the increase of tolls on said ferry service, and opposes any decrease in the level of ferry service to and from Ocracoke Island, North Carolina.

ADOPTED this the 2nd day of April, 2012.

8. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION CONCERNING NORTH CAROLINA'S SEA-LEVEL RISE REPORTS, POLICIES AND MONITORING EFFORTS:

The Board considered a resolution concerning North Carolina's sea-level rise reports, policies and monitoring efforts. County Manager Randy Keaton explained that the N.C. Division of Coastal Management's original report on sea-level rise was projecting a one meter or 39 inch increase in sea-level by the year 2100. He said the one meter rise assumption would limit development and other things from happening in the coastal area. He said this has been the basis of NC-20's skepticism of what the state had come out with. He advised that the state has now backed off of this recommendation somewhat and several counties have adopted resolutions asking the state to discontinue any sea-level rise policies until there is verifiable scientific proof of the current rate of sea-level rise. Carteret County has asked that Pasquotank County adopt such a resolution.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Joe Winslow to adopt the following resolution concerning North Carolina's sea-level rise reports, policies, and monitoring efforts. The motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING NORTH CAROLINA'S SEA-LEVEL RISE REPORTS, POLICIES, AND MONITORING EFFORTS

WHEREAS, the N.C. Division of Coastal Management, under the auspices of the N.C. Department of Environment & Natural Resources is developing a sea-level rise policy predicated by a "Literature Search" issued in 2010 by the State Science Panel on Coastal Hazards entitled, "North Carolina Sea-Level Rise Assessment Report"; and

WHEREAS, the N.C. Division of Coastal Management, under the auspices of the N.C. Department of Environment & Natural Resources is developing a sea-level rise policy predicated by a report issued in 2010 by the State Science Panel on Coastal Hazards entitled, "North Carolina Sea-Level Rise Assessment Report"; and

WHEREAS, also the N.C. Division of Emergency Management, under the auspices of the N.C. Department of Crime Control & Public Safety, is preparing a separate study report entitled, “North Carolina Sea Level Rise Impact Study” under the directives of the federal 2009 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill that furnished \$5 million for the study report; and

WHEREAS, the N.C. Division of Emergency Management is utilizing the Science Panel’s 2010 North Carolina Sea-Level Rise Assessment Report as a basis for their study report; and

WHEREAS, there has been considerable controversy and widespread disagreement regarding the sea-level rise projects provided in the Science Panel’s 2010 Report and the embellishment of sea-level rise data provided in the historical record; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County has previously gone on record with its concern to how exaggerated sea-level rise projects and resulting policy/rules can cause irreparable economic harm to the coastal plain of North Carolina by adversely changing land/property values, uses, insurances, and construction/maintenance costs of both private and public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the current draft of the N.C. Division of Coastal Management sea-level rise policy and draft materials for the N.C. Division of Emergency Management’s study report both include directives calling for additional sea-level monitoring and the re-visitation/re-establishment of sea-level rise rates at periodic intervals; and

WHEREAS, considering the impacts to human health and economies in the region that are associated with understanding and reporting sea level, and the fact there continues to be a great deal of uncertainty regarding future sea-level rates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners that Pasquotank County requests the development of protocols articulating the precise methodology to how sea level is to be measured, recorded, interpreted, and reported.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these protocols must be developed and approved with the strong aid of local governments and other stakeholders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the aforesaid State Agencies discontinue promotion, education, and implementation of any Sea-Level Rise policies, until there is verifiable scientific proof of the current rate of sea-level rise and an acceleration of this rate is observed by the methods agreed upon as stated immediately above, and are found to be hazardous to future uses of coastal property in North Carolina.

ADOPTED this 2nd day of April, 2012.

9. DISCUSSION REGARDING CATALYST GRANT FOR OLD ECMS:

Chairman Griffin reported that he, Vice-Chairman Dixon, and the County Manager met on Friday with the Mayor and the City Manager to discuss moving forward with grant opportunities for PAL to renovate the former Elizabeth City Middle School. County Manager Randy Keaton explained that the city is in the process of applying for a \$500,000 Catalyst Grant through the Community Development Block Grant Program. He said one of the questions discussed was having a reciprocal agreement between the county and the city that would allow the city to apply for a grant for a county building. He stated that the city does not want to lease the building but would like to come up with a way to allow them to apply for the grant on the county’s behalf. He said they discussed making a joint grant application, however the city has already gone through the public hearing process. He noted that the county could still hold a public hearing at the next Commissioner meeting to support the grant. Mr. Keaton advised that they discussed the possibility of the city administering the grant and Pasquotank County administering the construction since the building is owned by Pasquotank County. He stated that the last item discussed was how to score better on the grant and the city was proposing to put \$75,000 into the project and was asking the county to consider doing the same. He said this would make it a \$650,000 project with \$500,000 coming from the state and \$150,000 from local sources. He stated that a question was asked whether the \$75,000 from each the city and the county could be spread over a period of time and come from Occupancy Tax proceeds since the project will help generate more tourism events, such as the Golden Gloves event which was held this weekend,

volleyball tournaments, and basketball tournaments. Mr. Keaton said if the Board wants to go forward with being a part of the grant application, the Chairman has recommended that the Board hold a public hearing to get feedback from the public about whether to participate.

Commissioner Bill Trueblood stated that he has a real problem contributing \$75,000 in county funds for this project, regardless of where they come from. He said in the beginning the county agreed with PAL that the building was there for their use, but that the county had no intent to spend money on that building. He said it has been pointed out that this building is no longer used as a school because it is not good enough to educate kids, however it is now being proposed to put 400 kids back in the building. He stated that the agreement with PAL was for them to use the building and be responsible for the maintenance of the building. He said if anything structurally is done to the building he believes Pasquotank County needs to be a part of it.

Commissioner Cecil Perry stated that he supports the idea, but is not sure about the \$75,000. He said the county made no contribution toward maintaining the Boys Club for recreation. He stated that the community deserves a place for young people to go for recreation and he thinks PAL has done an excellent job with what they have. He added that if the grant will enhance their program he will support it.

Commissioner Joe Winslow stated that he thinks what PAL does is admirable and he has seen their many accomplishments. He said he thought that the county's attitude was that the county would not put resources in the building. He pointed out that the county is still in difficult economic times and does not have \$75,000. He added that he would be against spending money on the building at this time.

Commissioner William Sterritt said he would like to take the high road on this issue and look at the value of what has happened already in the building. He noted that the Board of Education was very happy to give the building to the county because it did not have the funds to keep it at a stable temperature, did not want to see it further deteriorate, and did not have the funds to have it torn down. He stated that the building has become valuable, especially for the youth in the community, and he believes more value will come out of that building. He said he sees no reason the county cannot tap into its Occupancy Tax money and he is in favor of going forward.

Vice-Chairman Dixon pointed out that the funds will not be spent for PAL or for the Boys & Girls Club or any other youth organization that may potentially go in the building. He said there have been boxing matches and volleyball events that the Tourism Board has already put money towards. He stated that these people are spending nights in local hotels, eating in our restaurants and buying gas, so they are putting money back into the community. He advised that the building has no heating or air conditioning and the boxing match that was held this weekend was held in a room that had no heating or air conditioning whatsoever. He said the money will be used to renovate the building on an as-needed basis to help promote these types of functions. He stated that Golden Gloves boxing events and girls' volleyball tournaments cannot continue to be held in a building that has no heat, no air conditioning, no utilities in some rooms, and peeling paint in a lot of the rooms. He said the funds would provide a start to rehabilitate the building so it can have these types of functions. He added that there are many other events that can utilize the building, but the building needs to be put back together. He stated that tourism funds can be used because they have been used for similar projects and spread over a period of several years. He explained that Occupancy Tax does not come from the county's taxpayers but from visitors from outside of the community. He said these funds could be utilized to help renovate the building and reinvest in the building that would yield more Occupancy Tax revenue for the county.

Commissioner Gary White stated that his first thoughts were that the county does not have the funds, but if the county does not have to use proceeds from its general fund he will consider the \$75,000 in matching money for the Catalyst Grant.

Chairman Griffin advised that 12 years ago when the Museum of the Albemarle was in the planning stages, Pasquotank County and the City of Elizabeth City joined forces and contributed \$150,000 each from Occupancy Tax funds over a three year period to support the project. He said the county and city also used Occupancy Tax funds over a period of time to support the Arts of the Albemarle renovation project. When Port Discover needed funds to purchase its current building the county used Occupancy Tax money over a period of seven years to support the

project. He said all three of these projects bring tourism and Occupancy Tax revenue to the community. Chairman Griffin said the activities at the old Elizabeth City Middle School also bring tourism to the community as well as provide additional opportunities for the youth in the community. He added that the Boys & Girls Club is looking for a home and is working with PAL and at some point will be paying a part of the operational costs. He said they are working to try to come up with a payment formula. Chairman Griffin said the facility will still be a county facility and the county would be involved in managing the construction. The city would be the grant administrator since the city is the grant applicant, and PAL would manage the day to day operations. Chairman Griffin added that there are still more details that have to be worked out. He advised that the city's grant application must be submitted by April 30. He said the city has held two public hearing on the grant application and it was felt that the county should have one to show that this is a collective effort.

Chairman Trueblood asked if anyone besides him has any discomfort that the city has already had two public hearings on this application for a building that belongs to Pasquotank County before it even came before the Board of Commissioners. He said he is a part of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee and he supports recreation. He stated that Occupancy Tax funding for this project has been mentioned and he could support that if there is a plenty of Occupancy Tax. He said he would like to see some of that Occupancy Tax pay for the \$40,000 cost of sod at South Park last year. He said he believes there is a commitment of Occupancy Tax funds in the out years to finish up the project that was begun at South Park. He added that he would not want to see an over-commitment of the Occupancy Tax money until the things that are already in place are taken care of.

Chairman Griffin asked if this \$40,000 would be above and beyond the \$35,000 contributed in 2009-10, the \$35,000 contributed in 2010-11, and the \$18,000 committed in 2011-12. Commissioner Trueblood said if it is spent now it will not be available at budget time. The County Manager explained that the \$88,000 mentioned by Chairman Griffin is reimbursement of the first portion of phase one of the grant which came about three years ago when the county was looking to recoup that portion.

Mr. Keaton advised that the Catalyst grant is a grant that typically a city would apply for because it has to address certain blighted areas and has to meet certain criteria for a community development block grant such as opportunities for disadvantaged kids. He said it is more geared towards a city area which is why the city is applying for the grant. He stated that the local match came up in the meeting last Friday when the Mayor said that the application might gain more points and stand a better chance of being funded if there is local match. Not only would the local match strengthen the grant application, but it would provide additional funds to address the heating and air issues at the building. Mr. Keaton suggested if the Board wants to put a public hearing on the next agenda, he will rework the Occupancy Tax spreadsheet and go further in the out years to show different scenarios. He noted that the obligations for Arts of the Albemarle, Museum of the Albemarle, and the current reimbursement for South Park have been paid off.

Commissioner Trueblood asked if the county would get any credit in the grant application for providing the building. Mr. Keaton responded that this question has already been asked and the county would not get any credit for providing the building, only for what it plans to do with the building.

Chairman Griffin requested that the Manager put together the spreadsheet to show projections for Occupancy Tax proceeds in the out years as well as trying to come up with a reimbursement for South Park. He asked that this be discussed further at the next Finance Committee meeting in order to work out the details. He also requested that a public hearing on the grant application be held at the April 16th Commissioner meeting.

10. 911 AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS:

Chairman Griffin reported that at the meeting last week with the Mayor and City Manager, they tried to come up with a resolution for the Central Communications and Emergency Management agreements. He said the two members of the Board who were selected to serve on the joint committee are Commissioner Trueblood and Commissioner Winslow. He advised that the Mayor has selected Councilman Stimatz and will be selecting another Councilor to serve on the committee. He suggested that the committee have a meeting before the next joint meeting on April 30.

11. REPORTS FROM COUNTY MANAGER:

County Manager Randy Keaton stated that the Water Superintendent has reported to him that state inspectors will be coming tomorrow to do their first walk-thru of the new RO plant. He stated that the SDI's are decreasing for the two outer wells. He said once the state does its walk-thru, they will advise of any issues that need to be addressed. He added that after tomorrow there will be a better idea of when the plant can begin sending RO drinking water out into the system. He noted that once a schedule has been established, the county can begin considering when to have a dedication ceremony.

Mr. Keaton reported that the renovation work in the revaluation office has been completed by Maintenance Department staff and the revaluation team will be coming in tomorrow to begin setting up.

Mr. Keaton stated that he and the Chairman have been discussing the public meetings the Board agreed to hold in the county to discuss the restructuring of the Board. He said the Chairman has suggested that they be held at one of the regular Commissioner meetings each month and those regular meetings would be held in different areas of the county. He asked for direction from the Board as to when and where they would like to have these meetings so that locations can be secured and the meetings can be scheduled.

12. REPORT FROM ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER:

Assistant County Manager Rodney Bunch reported that over the years when discussing the Flood Zone Ordinance, staff advised that floor elevations were required to be at a certain height based on whatever the map shows as the base flood. He said the last change required that the heating ductwork of a structure had to be at that height which pushed the finished floor up even higher. He stated that at that time the Board considered adding one foot of freeboard which would have raised everything an additional foot. He noted that this would have helped lower insurance rates, but the Board decided against it because it could not be shown that there would be enough savings for individuals to justify the change. Mr. Bunch informed the Board that as of March 1 of this year when the 2012 residential building codes came out, one foot of freeboard is now mandated. He added that now all building permits for structures in the flood zone are being raised an additional foot which will add to the cost of construction. He said this was one of the major things to try to reduce insurance rates and it is now mandatory. He noted that staff will be looking at other things that might help reduce insurance rates further.

13. REPORT FROM COUNTY ATTORNEY:

County Attorney Mike Cox said he would like to follow up on an issue from the Finance Committee meeting today. He stated that Parks & Recreation Director Bobbi White mentioned a fireworks regulation. He said the state regulation provides that the Board of Commissioners may authorize the governing body of any city in the county to issue permits for fireworks. It provides that the Board of Commissioners shall adopt a resolution granting the authority to the city and it shall remain in effect until withdrawn by the Board of County Commissioners adopting a subsequent resolution. Mr. Cox stated that he believes the Board has adopted a continuing resolution and he will check on this to determine if the Board needs to do anything further. Vice-Chairman Dixon asked if the fireworks show that is held in Weeksville each year needs permission from the county. Mr. Cox said he will research this issue.

14. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Joe Winslow reported that he has attended a meeting of the 911 Advisory Board and some other committee meetings since the last meeting, but has nothing else to report.

Commissioner William Sterritt reported that the SPCA will be meeting tomorrow night and will be holding a special fundraiser event this Saturday at Charles Creek Park.

Commissioner Jeff Dixon said he would like to thank the Clerk for the weekly meeting reminders she has been sending out to the Board.

Commissioner Cecil Perry informed the Board Members that they will probably be hearing a lot about East Carolina Behavioral Health over the next few weeks. He stated that a special meeting of the ECBH Board will be held in the near future after which he will make a report.

Commissioner Perry advised that he has received a lot of telephone calls about restructuring the Board and he said the procedures need to be spelled out. He said the people in his community would like to know exactly how the Board plans to move forward. He added that he asked the Board to help him look at a way to restructure the Board and he has only received one suggestion besides those telling him something will not work. He said he would also like to know how the meetings in the community will be structured.

Commissioner Gary White said he would like to assure the Board and the public that Commissioner Trueblood, Chairman Griffin, and he are diligently scrutinizing the future of solid waste.

Commissioner Bill Trueblood requested that all staff from the Water Department involved in the RO project be available for the Water Committee meeting this Wednesday so any and all questions that might be asked can be answered by staff.

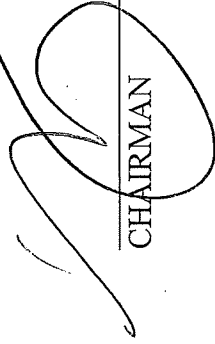
Commissioner Trueblood said he would like to share some thoughts about last week's called Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee meeting. He stated that one thing of interest that was discussed was the purchase of a building on Water Street to be utilized for several different functions including storage for the Parks & Recreation Department and showers for boaters. He said he has no problems with most of the uses, but he has a real problem with showers for boaters. He stated that it appears City Council is ready to move forward on this project. He added that there was not a lot of input from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee because it appeared the decision had already been made. Commissioner Trueblood stated that there were some minor problems with South Park related to some of the fees that were proposed and those fees have been adjusted in hope that the tournaments will continue to come to South Park and help fill up the hotels in town. Commissioner Trueblood stated that he has asked the County Manager to make sure in his consultation with the City Manager that the Parks & Recreation budget that is submitted be properly identified this year so the county can fully understand it. He added that the county is funding 55% of that budget and he believes the county should be able to read the budget and understand it. He said he hopes those items in the Parks & Recreation budget that are not funded with the county's 55% budget are separated out so there is no confusion as to what part Council is funding and what part Parks & Recreation is funding. Chairman Griffin advised that this was discussed at the meeting with the Mayor and City Manager last week.

Commissioner Perry noted that Elizabeth City Downtown also had a discussion about the proposed shower facility for boaters. He said he questioned if it is a public building how it will be managed.

Chairman Griffin reported that he received a letter today from Ms. Sharon Cooper commending Water Superintendent John Gregory on his positive attitude and willingness to work with the land owners in the vicinity of the RO plant. Commissioner Trueblood stated that he would like to add that Pasquotank County is fortunate enough to have two of the most outstanding water people in the world in John Gregory and Ronny Jennings, and he wants the Board to go on record saying that. He said without those two people he knows the Water Department would not be where it is now.

Chairman Griffin asked if there was any further business to come before the Board. There being no further business, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by Gary White, seconded by Cecil Perry to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.


CHAIRMAN


CLERK TO THE BOARD