

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
APRIL 15, 2019**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, April 15, 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 Commissioner Meads 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 Paramedic; 2) Approval of 2018-19 Audit Contract; 3) Approval of Grass Mowing Contracts; 4) Approval of NCDOT Permanent Utility Easement; and 5) Approval to Accept Offer for Former Health Department Building

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Charles Jordan to amend the agenda to add Items 1-5 above to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

2. COMMENTS BY DOUG LANE:

Chairman Dixon recognized Mr. Doug Lane of 625 Okisko Road to address the Board. Mr. Lane requested the Special Projects Committee meet to address his concerns regarding “hunting with dogs”.

3. ECSU BRASS ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE:

Commissioner Perry introduced Juliet Boykins, Director of Bands, at Elizabeth City State University. Ms. Boykins thanked the Board for the opportunity to come before them. The university’s brass ensemble introduced themselves, and performed a musical selection. She offered their services in the future if needed.

Chairman Dixon recognized Mr. and Mrs. King and asked them to come forward. He said the King’s are new to our community, and are very enthusiastic. He said he has had the pleasure of sitting with them at a couple of community forums. He thanked them for giving back to our community. The King’s said they absolutely love it here, and they want to see Elizabeth City do well. They are looking at ways to connect ECSU to the community. Mrs. King thanked Commissioner Perry and his wife for being instrumental in introducing them to many people and informing them of events in the community.

4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MACU PRESIDENT:

John Maurice, President, Mid-Atlantic Christian University, introduced himself and provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the university’s mission, credentials, students, degrees and certificates offered, areas of study, cooperative programs, sports programs, and economic impact on the County. He said their future plans and needs include: Buildings (Biology laboratory,

gymnasium, cafeteria), Graduate School (Counseling), Financial support, and Community goodwill. He said last semester there were 212 students registered, which was their largest enrollment ever. He is looking to grow the university by 5% per year. In four years, he hopes over 300 students are enrolled. He believes many of those students will come through the new athletic programs offered.

5. REQUEST TO HANG SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE PORTRAIT IN COURTHOUSE:

C. Everett Thompson, Attorney at Law, explained that his grandfather, for whom he was named, was an attorney in Elizabeth City many years ago. He started practicing law in 1900 and practiced until the mid-1930s. He later went on the bench as a Superior Court Judge in the 1st Judicial District in 1947. Unfortunately, he was shot and killed through the front window of his home on Main Street. The man then turned the shotgun on himself and killed himself. He stated that he commissioned an artist to paint a portrait of his grandfather. He presented a copy of the portrait to the Board, and said he would like to dedicate the portrait to the courthouse and have it hung in Courtroom A.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Sean Lavin to allow the portrait of former Superior Court Judge, C. Everett Thompson to be hung in Courtroom A of the Pasquotank County Courthouse. The motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of March 26, March 29, and April 1, 2019 Commissioner Meetings

b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds

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

Tax Refunds

		County	City
1.	Kevin Musorofiti	391.12	
2.	Kevin Musorofiti	314.12	

Solid Waste Fee Releases

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Justin M. Bowen	P117-6	Vacant
2.	Rose Brickers Heirs	50-A-45	Vacant
3.	Barbara Cooper Evans	25-D-91-92	Vacant
4.	Palmer Griffin Etal Life Estate	P112-3	Vacant
5.	Genevia Kellogg Etal	P95-24	Vacant
6.	Harry Jr. & Alice F. Selby Kellogg	56-F-2	Vacant
7.	Doris M. McPherson	39-A-40	Vacant
8.	Justin Kyle Meads	P36-29	Vacant
9.	Jeff Overton, Jr. Heirs	P67-44	Vacant

c. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

Elections

Decrease	010.6900.5991.00	Contingency	14,205.00
Increase	010.0500.4831.00	Interest Earned	18,695.00
Increase	010.4170.5122.00	Salaries & Wages-Overtime	200.00
Increase	010.4170.5128.00	Board Salaries	2,600.00
Increase	010.4170.5262.00	Ballots	10,100.00
Increase	010.4170.5400.00	Rent	300.00
Increase	010.4170.5440.00	Contracted Services	19,700.00

To appropriate estimated costs relating to the Special Election to be held to fill vacant 3rd Congressional District seat.

Revenue/Loan Proceeds

Increase	010.0600.4930.01	Insurance Proceeds-EMS	63,069.00
Increase	010.0400.4437.00	Ambulance Fees	93,641.00
Decrease	010.0700.4970.00	Loan Proceeds	156,710.00

To appropriate additional revenues received and to reduce amount to be borrowed.

Sheriff

Increase	010.0180.4290.00	Gross Receipts Tax	10,000.00
Increase	010.0400.4432.00	Jail Fees	5,986.00
Increase	010.4310.5131.00	Separation Allowance	15,986.00

To appropriate funds due to retirements after July 1.

Revenue/Loan Proceeds

Increase	010.0150.4235.00	Sales Tax-1/4-Article 46	300,000.00
Decrease	010.0700.4970.00	Loan Proceeds	300,000.00

To reduce amount appropriated for funds to be borrowed for School Capital.

d. Approval of Request for 2019 Spring Litter Sweep Funding

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a request by Nita Coleman for \$500 for vests and other supplies for the 2019 Spring Litter Sweep Campaign.

e. Approval of Resolution Regarding Historic Tax Records

The Finance Committee has recommended adoption of the following resolution which urges our legislators to support House Bill 399, which extends the state Historic Tax Credit program for 10 years to January 1, 2030.

RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 399
FOR HISTORIC TAX CREDIT

WHEREAS, it is one of Pasquotank County's goals to increase community-wide business development opportunities to increase the quantity and quality of jobs; and

WHEREAS, the federal and state Historic Tax Credit program has proven to be one of the most reliable job generators nationally, creating more than 2.4 million jobs, rehabilitating more than 42,000 buildings, and leveraging \$131.8 billion in private investment; and

WHEREAS, the state Historic Tax Credit program is set to sunset on January 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, this program offers valuable tax credit incentives in conjunction with the federal Historic Tax Credit program for the rehabilitation and restoration of income producing historic properties; and

WHEREAS, the state Historic Tax Credit program has been instrumental in spurring local investment and economic development projects in the Central Business District of Elizabeth City representing almost \$10 million in private investment, such as the Weatherly Lofts project, the restoration of the former Friendly Wig Shop, the restoration of the former New Fowler Store, and the restoration of the former Chesson's Department Store; and

WHEREAS, there are multiple projects representing almost \$17 million of private investment pending that might be hindered by the sunseting of the state Historic Tax Credit program; and

WHEREAS, these projects would not be economically viable without the state Historic Tax Credit program; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 399 (H399) was introduced to extend the HTC program for ten years to January 1, 2030, along with a 5% bonus credit for historic rehabilitation in areas of our state that have been declared disaster areas; and

WHEREAS, in North Carolina federal Historic Tax Credit program leverages private investment dollars; with the state credit; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Pasquotank County does hereby support House Bill 399, which extends the state Historic Tax Credit program for 10 years to January 1, 2030, and adds a 5% bonus for rehabilitation of historic properties in areas that have been declared disaster areas as a tool to continue to spur economic development in our Historic District and throughout Elizabeth City and Pasquotank County; and urges our legislators to support the bill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to our State Legislative Delegation and other partners related to related to historic preservation projects.

ADOPTED this the 15th day of April 2019.

f. Approval of Resolution Supporting Reducing the Property Tax Exclusion for Solar Farms
The Finance Committee has recommended adoption of the following resolution which would amend NCGS 105-275(45) to reduce the exclusion from eighty percent to sixty percent of the appraised value of the solar energy electric systems from local ad valorem tax valuation. The Bill would require the County to spend fifty percent of the tax proceeds collected under the statute for public education and community college purposes.

**RESOLUTION OF THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 541
WHICH WOULD CHANGE THE PROPERTY TAX EXCLUSION
FOR SOLAR ENERGY**

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. §105-275(45) allows the exclusion of eighty percent (80%) of the appraised valued of solar energy electric systems from local ad valorem tax valuation; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 renewable energy development in Pasquotank County comprised of solar energy electric systems encumbered approximately 400 acres of land with real property investments in the amount of \$68,787,021; and

WHEREAS, due to N.C. Gen. Stat. §105-275(45) the solar energy electric systems in Pasquotank County were assessed a combined business and personal property tax in the amount of \$105,932 rather than \$529,660 any other commercial development not receiving preferential tax treatment under the statute would be required to pay; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 541 would amend N.C. Gen. Stat. §105-275(45) to reduce the exclusion from eighty percent (80%) to sixty percent (60%) of the appraised value of the solar energy electric systems from local ad valorem tax valuation; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 541 would require the County to spend fifty percent (50%) of the tax proceeds collected under N.C. Gen. Stat. §105-275(45) for public education and community college purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Pasquotank Board of Commissioners that:

- Section 1. Pasquotank County requests that its legislative delegation support House Bill 541 and otherwise support legislation to repeal N.C. Gen. Stat. §105-275(45).
- Section 2. The Clerk to the Board of Commissioners is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the county's legislative delegation.

Section 3. This resolution is effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED the 15th day of April, 2019.

g. Approval of Starting Salary above Hiring Rate for Paramedic

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the starting salary for a full time Paramedic at Grade 19, Step 8 - \$44,152 due to the applicant's 13 years of experience in a nearby county.

h. Approval of 2018-19 Audit Contract

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a contract with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A. in the amount of \$23,500 for the 2018-19 Audit.

i. Approval of Grass Mowing Contracts

The Finance Committee has recommended awarding grass mowing contracts for several well sites to Carter's Lawn Care & Landscape for a total amount of \$20,160.

j. Approval of NCDOT Permanent Utility Easement

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of a request from NCDOT for a permanent utility easement on the County's property located at 333 Winfall Boulevard in Hertford for \$8,200.

k. Approval to Accept Offer for Former Health Department Building

The Finance Committee has recommended accepting an offer of \$100,000 for property the County owns at 311 Cedar Street (former Health Department Building), and to begin the upset bid process.

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

7. COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS:

County Attorney Mike Cox reported that he recently had the honor of attending an investiture ceremony for one of his friends, to the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Attorney Cox said he, Chairman Dixon, and Planning Director Shelley Cox were recently interviewed by UNC TV regarding economic development as it relates to solar and wind farms, and how they are affecting Pasquotank County. He said a segment should be airing in the near future, and he will make the Board aware of the date and time.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Overman attended the DSS Board meeting. He stated that he had the opportunity to participate in a couple of litter sweeps.

Commissioner Jordan said he and Chairman Dixon attended a ribbon cutting at the COA Library. He attended the Library Board meeting where they took a preliminary look at their budget. In addition, he attended the Ministers Council, and the School Board meeting with Commissioners Overman and Lavin.

Vice-Chairman Griffin asked staff to come up with a policy regarding "early out" longevity pay. Commissioner Overman said the Board could consider prorating longevity pay. He feels that long serving personnel are one of our greatest assets.

Commissioner Lavin agreed with Vice-Chairman Griffin that the Board needs a policy for longevity pay. He said he also participated in the litter sweep on Friday. He thanked Mr. Hammett and staff for putting the event together. He reported that 28 bags were picked up on the six mile stretch. He attended the ECPPS Board of Education meeting.

Commissioner Meads stated that he too would like staff to establish a policy for longevity pay. Mr. Cox said it is his understanding that this is already addressed in the personnel policy. Commission Meads reported that he attended the SPCA meeting.

Commissioner Perry said he will be attending the COA Board of Trustees meeting in the morning. The other boards he is on will be meeting later in the month.

Chairman Dixon attended several meetings. He reminded the Board of the upcoming Joint City/County meeting on April 29th.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Sean Lavin 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 7:25 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD