

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
MAY 20, 2019**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, May 20, 2019 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeff Dixon, Chairman  
Cecil Perry

**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 Vice-Chairman Lloyd Griffin. Barry Overman gave the invocation and Sean Lavin led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**1. TRILLIUM ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION BY BLAND BAKER**

Vice-Chairman Griffin called on Regional Director Bland Baker to provide Trillium's annual report. Commissioner Jordan, who serves on the Northern Regional Advisory Board (Trillium), introduced Mr. Baker, as well as Tracey Webster, System Care Coordinator for the area. She invited the Board to attend the Camden/Pasquotank Community Collaborative meetings held bi-monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, at 1:00 PM, at Albemarle Alliance.

Mr. Baker discussed coverage changes, legislative changes, funding changes, organizational changes, and county data. He noted that over \$355,201,859 was spent on services last year in the 26 counties that Trillium serves. In June of last year, the General Assembly passed Senate Bill 403, which is the reorganization of the Medicaid Program, which is probably the biggest change they have seen in 40 years. Basically, the Bill says that Medicaid will have two products, the Standard Plan and the Tailored Plan. It puts Behavioral Health services for mild to moderate needs into Standard Plans and Innovations Waiver and Severe Mental Health under the Tailored Plan. He said the way it looks, about 70% of the patients that are currently covered under mental health and substance abuse treatment, will be covered under the Standard Plan. The remainder will qualify for the Tailored Plan. Not only will each of the plans cover mental health and substance abuse issues, but they will be responsible for the physical health and pharmacy as well. Each of the groups handling the two plans will have a lot to learn.

Mr. Baker said that Trillium served 1,654 individuals last year in Pasquotank County, at a cost of \$11 million. He said they continue to offer crisis intervention training at no cost to law enforcement and EMS. They also do Mental Health first aid training in the school systems for school personnel to teach them how to recognize children that may have issues and how to address those. He said they did an RFP several months ago to recruit some more independent practitioners, and were able to do so.

Mr. Baker briefly explained new laws regarding transportation for mental health and substance abuse patients. Commissioner Jordan thanked Mr. Baker for helping address mental health issues at the jail. He said things are working much better at this time.

**2. CONTINUATION OF BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW:**

Vice-Chairman Griffin reconvened the Board of Equalization and Review which was recessed at the last meeting. He asked to hear any appeals from tax payers regarding their tax assessment. Tax Administrator Patrice Stewart stated that no additional appeals have been received in her office.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Sean Lavin to adjourn the Board of Equalization and Review for 2019.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE FOR OVERGROWN LOTS:**

Attorney Cox briefly explained the proposed nuisance ordinance, which has been recommended by the Special Projects Committee. He said in no event may the grass or weeds on any portion of a lot which is not used for active farming or woodlands exceed the height of 24". County Manager Hammett noted that the proposed ordinance is based on other counties locally. He added that the ordinance is complaint driven and not proactive.

Vice-Chairman Griffin declared the meeting to be a public hearing.

Vice-Chairman Griffin asked if anyone would care to address the Board regarding the ordinance. At the absence of comments, the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Meads requested the ordinance be amended to add language stating that the ordinance not apply to residents that are 600' or more from its nearest resident. Mr. Hammett said virtually all of these complaints received are within platted subdivisions. Commissioner Overman said he would like it to be left to staff's discretion, and not put a number on it.

Vice-Chairman Griffin asked that the Special Projects Committee review the ordinance again, taking the Board's comments into consideration.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Sean Lavin to move the proposed Overgrown Lot Ordinance back to the Special Projects Committee to consider the Boards comments. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of April 29 and May 6, 2019 Commissioner Meetings

b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds

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

**Tax Releases**

		County	City
1.	Jose Jaime Verga Flores Etal	144.00	
2.	1 <sup>st</sup> Step Financial	439.89	374.18
3.	Dearden Management Group LLC	2,526.37	2,427.95
4.	Dearden Management Group LLC	281.82	239.73
5.	Dearden Management Group LLC	460.46	391.69

**Solid Waste Fee Releases**

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Verlin Williams	P80-4A	Vacant
2.	Verlin Elliott Williams & Donna F. Walker	P112-9	Vacant
3.	Domestic & Overseas Investing Co., Inc.	11-G-19	Vacant
4.	Domestic & Overseas Investing Co., Inc.	57-A-201	Vacant

c. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

**Water**

Increase	060.0350.4713.00	Sale of Water	75,000.00
Decrease	060.0350.4713.04	Hookups	75,000.00

To move revenue projected for system development fees to sale of water due to new requirements.

**RO Plant**

Increase	063.0700.4981.80	Transfer from W/S Cap Res Fund	75,000.00
Decrease	063.0550.4839.00	Miscellaneous Revenue	75,000.00

To appropriate funds from W/S Capital Reserve for debt service.

W/S Capital Reserve Fund

Increase	080.0350.4713.10	System Development Fees	75,000.00
Decrease	080.0700.4981.60	Transfer from Water	75,000.00

To move funds originally appropriated in Water to System Development Fees.

*d. Adoption of Proclamation Declaring May 2019 to be Older Americans Month in Pasquotank County*

Jasmin S. Wilson, Aging Program and Contracts Specialists & Long Term Care Ombudsman CAC Program Assistant at Albemarle Commission, has requested that the Board adopt the following proclamation recognizing the importance of older adults in our community and encouraging our community to celebrate and honor adults and those who serve and support them daily.

**Older Americans Month 2019**

A PROCLAMATION

**Whereas**, Pasquotank County includes a growing number of older Americans who enrich our community through their diverse life experiences; and

**Whereas**, Pasquotank County is committed to strengthening our community by connecting with and supporting older adults, their families, and caregivers and acknowledging their many valuable contributions to society; and

**Whereas**, Pasquotank County recognizes the importance of bringing together all generations and engaging in activities that promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being for the benefit of all; and

**Whereas**, Pasquotank County can enhance the lives of older Americans in our community by:

- promoting home- and community-based services that support independent living;
- involving older adults in community events and other activities; and
- providing opportunities for older adults to work, volunteer, learn, lead, and mentor.

**Now, therefore**, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims May 2019 to be Older Americans Month. The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners urges every resident to take time during this month to recognize older adults and the people who serve them as essential and valuable members of our community.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019

*e. Adoption of Proclamation Proclaiming May 13 – June 16, 2019 as Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse Awareness Month*

Chairman Dixon will be presenting the following proclamation at the 2019 – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk Towards Awareness, “Stepping Out Against Elder Abuse” on Friday, May 31, 2019 proclaiming May 13 – June 16, 2019 as Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse Awareness Months in Pasquotank County.

**Vulnerable Adult and Elder Abuse  
Awareness Months Proclamation**

**2019**

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina joins the world in recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day every June 15; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting North Carolina’s vulnerable and older adults is a community responsibility, and all citizens are charged under state law to report suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation to their local County Department of Social Services; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina’s vulnerable and older adults of all social, economic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds may be targets of abuse, neglect, or exploitation which can occur in families, long-term care settings, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, in state Fiscal Year 2018, there were 30,128 reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable and older adults made to North Carolina’s 100 County Departments of Social Services; and

**WHEREAS**, national and international research shows that abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable and older adults is grossly underreported; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina enacted the nation’s first elder abuse law, and recognizes the need for a comprehensive system of protection for vulnerable and older adults; and

**WHEREAS**, Mother’s and Father’s Days are national holidays intended to honor, respect, and promote the dignity and well-being of our older citizens;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Cecil Perry, Chairman, Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim Mother’s Day through Father’s Day, May 13 – June 16, 2019, as “**VULNERABLE ADULT AND ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTHS**” in Pasquotank County, and commend observance to all citizens.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019

*f. Approval of Continuation of ½% Discount for Early Payment of Taxes*

The Board was asked to approve continuation of the ½% discount for early payment of taxes in July and August. The discount encourages property owners to pay their taxes early, improves the County’s cash flow, and help spread out the collection of taxes throughout the year instead of the majority of tax collections being concentrated during the month of December.

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Barry Overman to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. RECOMMENDATION FROM APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE:**

Commissioner Jordan stated that the Appointments Committee would like to nominate Matt Wood, Jr. to serve on the Personnel Appeals Committee.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Barry Overman to nominate Matt Wood, Jr. to serve on the Personnel Appeals Committee, with the appointment to be finalized at the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR STRENGTHENING CRITICAL DRAINAGE AND WATER QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE:**

County Manager Hammett stated that the Albemarle Resource Conservation & Development Council (ARC&D) has requested the Board consider adoption of the following resolution for strengthening critical drainage and water quality infrastructure in Northeast North Carolina. The resolution seeks to bring attention to regional drainage and water quality issues, and to work in partnership with our state legislators to bring much needed funds to Northeast North Carolina.

Motion was made by Frankie Meads, seconded by Charles Jordan to adopt the following resolution for strengthening critical drainage and water quality infrastructure. The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution**  
**For Strengthening Critical Drainage**  
**and Water Quality Infrastructure**

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners , which recognizes that more frequent and stronger storm events are causing longer periods of severe flooding and the subsequent degradation of water quality, AND that these problems are negatively impacting both

urban and rural residents, businesses, and our regional economy, DESIRES to work with our legislators, local governments, businesses, Albemarle Resource Conservation and Development Council (ARC&D), Albemarle Commission (AC), Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), farmers, non-profit groups, universities, state and federal agencies and citizen scientists to strengthen critical drainage and water quality infrastructure in northeast North Carolina.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners requests the State of North Carolina to increase financial assistance to the ten counties in northeast North Carolina around the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds for the following activities, which will help strengthen critical drainage and water quality infrastructure in northeast NC.

- 1) We recognize that creeks, rivers and canals are critical for draining stormwater off our flat landscape. However, many of these systems become clogged with woody debris during storm events, both minor and major. We request matching funds for local governments to annually clear debris from creeks, rivers and canals. This will help strengthen critical drainage infrastructure and lessen the damage that can occur during major storms such as Matthew and Florence.
- 2) We recognize that swamp forests are a critical component of drainage infrastructure as they help mitigate floodwaters and improve water quality. We request funds to help provide financial incentives to owners of swamp forests to conserve a minimum 100-foot buffer along creeks and rivers, which is essential for protecting both drainage and water quality.
- 3) We recognize that the return of algal blooms to our waters after an absence of 30 to 35 years is a threat to fisheries, recreation, property values, and human health, and thus to our regional economy. We request funds to help identify the causes of, and solutions to, the algal blooms, specifically to proactively monitor water quality in creeks and rivers—where NCDEQ does not have monitoring stations—in order to identify the specific sources of nutrients and sediment entering our waterways. This work would be performed in collaboration with local governments, ARC&D, AC, SWCD, universities, and citizen scientists.

ADOPTED this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May 2019.

**7. COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS:**

Attorney Cox informed the Board that there is a Dangerous Dog bill that is pending in the legislature that deals with seizing dogs. He has been in touch with our representatives and our lobbyist, and he will keep the Board up-to-date on it as he learns more.

**8. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Lavin enjoyed the Potato Festival this weekend. He thanked staff for their work on the budget. He said he would like to see a replacement schedule plan for the County's Volunteer Fire Departments in the future.

Commissioner Meads thanked staff for their work on the budget as well. He attended the ARC&D meeting last week. He noted that they have changed their meeting schedule, and now meet twice a year.

Commissioner Overman attended the Special Projects Committee meeting. He too thanked staff for their work on the budget. He noted that he has been involved in governmental budgets for a long time and this budget was very clear, concise, and easy. He had the opportunity Wednesday to spend the day in Raleigh. He met with Representative Hunter and Senator Steinburg, as well as the Commissioner of Insurance and State Treasure.

Commissioner Jordan attended the COA Nurse Pinning Ceremony, as well as the COA and ECSU graduations. He commended Chairman Dixon on his remarks at the ECSU graduation. He also attended the reception for the new ECPPS Superintendent, the Trillium Board meeting, Solid Waste Committee meeting, Jail Board meeting, and the Potato Festival. He commended Vice-Chairman Griffin on the greetings he provided at the festival.

Vice-Chairman Griffin reported that he and the County Manger attended Legislative Day in Raleigh. They visited several representatives. He said he had the honor of attending Attorney Cox's grandmother's funeral in Hyde County. In addition, he attended meetings at the Albemarle Commission and the Economic Development Commission. Both boards approved their budgets, with no increases.

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

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Charles Jordan to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

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VICE-CHAIRMAN

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CLERK TO THE BOARD