

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
OCTOBER 2, 2017**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, October 2, 2017 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cecil Perry, Chairman
Dr. William R. Sterritt, Vice-Chairman
Jeff Dixon
Lloyd E. Griffin, III
Joseph S. Winslow, Jr.
Frankie Meads
Bettie J. Parker

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Cecil Perry. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Vice-Chairman Bill Sterritt led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Perry thanked everyone for attending and for helping to make our community a better place to live. He asked that everyone respect one another.

Chairman Perry limited speakers to two minutes each due to the large number of citizens who signed up to speak.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING CONFEDERATE MONUMENT ON COURTHOUSE PROPERTY:

Chairman Perry recognized Betsy Meads of 2008 Johnson Road, Elizabeth City who said her Grandfather, Miles Smithson who was born in 1842 fought in the Confederate Army. He fought not because he had slaves but because he owned land. She said the Yankees invaded Pasquotank County and burned down the courthouse that existed on this property. He went to Manteo and fought in the Battle of Manteo and was caught and released after thirty days. He came back here and then went down to South Carolina and joined the Confederate Navy. She said he is buried north of town in the Smithson Family Cemetery. She noted that he lived to about 67 years old, had seven children, and he is buried beside three, unknown Yankee soldiers that died here, with no names. She said her family gave them a proper burial.

Ms. Meads said in the first grade her son was in a combination first/second grade class. She noted that some of the children in his class were almost two years older than him. He was a student at PW Moore, which is an 88% low income school. Her son went to preschool knowing his colors, shapes, numbers, and alphabet, but most of the children that he attended school with did not. His first grade teacher was amazing. She was no nonsense. She was about 5'2" and she is not sure that she even knew how to raise her voice. She didn't have to. She could stop children and parents dead in their tracks with the "look". About two weeks into the school year, she stopped her leaving the building and asked for a word with her. She asked her if her son had told her that he had been crying in class. She answered no. She went on to say the teacher told her that her son wants to read like the second graders and she told him that in two weeks he would be able to. Another morning she was asked to stay because the teacher and her assistant were absent. The last bell had rung several minutes prior to her getting to the classroom. She expected bedlam, but what she found were students doing their activities quietly as if the teacher was sitting in front of the room. Later when she commented on this to the teacher, she gave her the "look" and said that they were doing exactly what they were supposed to be doing and asked her what she had expected. Ms. Meads said her expectations were low and the teachers were high. She noted that this teacher's philosophy was directed to the children she taught, which were primarily poverty level, single parent households. In her classroom, students were expected to survive and thrive. She felt that the children needed a strong person to make them tough, because many lacked what others had; the discipline or instruction at home to enable them to succeed.

Two years later when her son was in another school, she had an issue about a matter. She went to the teacher and asked her concern. The teacher looked and said like a grandmother “oh no, not my Matthew”. She said this teacher taught her children to rise above the environment and not be a victim of birth. She stated that none of us have a choice in the matter into who, to whom, where, or when we are born. Her stern exterior and attention to every detail in their classroom was from a love of those children in the short time that she had to hopefully influence their direction. She thinks this lesson is being ignored in our schools today and in her opinion, manipulated by our leaders to create division. Playing victim seems to be a way to get your way these days. She noted that her son’s favorite teacher and her favorite teacher who they still adore is black.

Chairman Perry recognized Earl Rountree of Sunbury who promised the Board that he will not speak any longer than Ms. Meads. He said Chairman Perry told the truth when he said no one here would change their mind tonight. He stated that he is here to exercise his First Amendment rights. He believes his opinions to be true and plans to keep them short. He is here to say, we cannot, should not, and will not move our monuments. He said this is only a smokescreen that is being created by the NAACP and he does not understand why when we have ISIS, North Korea, and shootings in Las Vegas, we need to come in here and take up so much time worrying about a monument. He asked someone to tell him what the monument is hurting. He feels it is not hurting anything. He said we have issues that are far greater than anything out there. He reads in the newspaper constantly that we are looking for racial harmony, but if we want racial harmony we are not going to get it by having meetings and a group of people that want to tear down the monuments. He has many good, black friends and he hopes that everyone else in the courtroom does. He doesn’t know why we are creating a problem that is not there.

Chairman Perry recognized Paulene Berard who said she has no notes and will speak from her heart. She is 75 years old and the monument has been there her whole life. She owned a business in Elizabeth City for twenty five years and served on the Elizabeth City Downtown Board for 12-15 years and therefore has a very, vested interest in this city. Fifteen or so years ago she served on a Martin Luther King Committee. She said she studied him very carefully. She found out that he is a very peaceful man and not a trouble maker. She stated that the city opted to take the Martin Family that brought education into the community and were very prominent and change the name of the street to Martin Luther King. She said the committee was promised when the bypass came in the Martin Family would get their name back and that ECSU would do something to honor the family also. She said the only reason she is saying this is because that wrong has been there and has not been righted. She now feels like the Board is getting ready to do something wrong once again. She hopes the Board will think about it and she will certainly pray about it. She feels that she represents a great deal of the community.

Ms. Berard said she was recently in Richmond with a group of women that toured Monument Lane. She said the monuments were beautiful. The last one they saw was the Author Ashe Memorial, which was also a very beautiful monument. She asked when we start taking all these monuments down, are all monuments going to be taken down or are we going to be limited. She asked that this be taken into consideration. She said if Martin Luther King were here today he would be embarrassed of the street renaming and he would also be embarrassed if the monuments are removed.

Chairman Perry recognized Timothy Koller of Edenton who said he would like to address the Board on the travesty of what they are about to do. He stated that no matter what side of this argument you fall on, whether you are here because you want to move the monument because you find it offensive or because you want to keep the monument because it is an important part of history, he would argue to the Board that this is an important part of history for both sides. He said you cannot erase what has been done whether you were those who were subject to the victimizations of the cruelty of chattel slavery or whether you were on the other side of the fence is this any less important. He asked why would you as the group that had been victimized by this institutional slavery want the monument removed. He said there are a large group of college students here and he wants them to think about this to. The reason he wants them to think about it is because you cannot erase or ignore history and those who do are deemed to repeat it.

Mr. Koller said he would like to point out a few things to the Board after reading through their referendum and looking at the flawed logic that they have and are using as their basis for this. He said they stated in their first article that “this is affront to the principles of liberty and freedom embodied in the Constitution.” He said an affront is an offence and not everybody is offended.

He asked why this body would get to the point of legislating. He stated that Dr. Martin Luther King said something very important in his letter from Birmingham Jail when he was referring to the Jim Crow Laws, which was “that law which that does not pass muster with God’s Law with the natural law is no law at all”. He said no more can this body legislate that everybody is offended than it can legislate that no one is offended.

Mr. Koller said the second thing he would like to point out is that we talk about the acceptance of racial supremacy that is affront to the Constitution. He believes this body is referring to the Constitution in the form of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. He wants everybody in the room and on this panel to remember one thing; the Confederate States of America was founded in 1861. The 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments were not passed until after the Civil War. So while we do have those principles now, they did not exist at that time. Those things which they stood for were not there. He said before we try to go and remove something from history that is important on both sides of the argument he wants the body to think hard about what it is doing. Furthermore, he stated that the Confederate States of America were standing up for their right under the 10th amendment. He said regardless of whether it was to keep slaves or not, it was their 10th amendment rights toward state sovereignty and he would argue that the only colors that matter right now are red, white and blue and those flags that sit behind them. He said the flag joins us as citizens. He said we are North Carolinians and we are Americans and we do not need to be divided.

Chairman Perry recognized Alex Leary of 190 Alder Branch, Camden who said he would like to address the *Daily Advance* and get their information correct. He said he had been a teacher for 33 years and he taught 14 years at Northeastern High School rather than at Camden the entire time. He said he is here tonight to address a major thing that everybody is talking about. He noted that the Civil War has been so misrepresented. He said people always say the Confederates were an evil, white supremacist, racist group, but that is not the truth and most people know it is not true. He said most southerners did not fight to maintain slavery, but most North Carolina people actually fought because they felt like they were being invaded. He noted that he also tried to point out last time that there is hatred, but it is not a southern trait. He said he understands why so many black people resent the confederate flag. He said when the KKK was at its height of 5 million members, 40% of its members were from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. He said there were more members in those three states than in the entire eleven confederate states. He went on to say we have enough problems in the county today. He said football players are taking a lot of flak by not representing the flag. The tragedy in Las Vegas is something that we should be concerned with. We need to stop thinking about something that happened 150 years ago and has been misrepresented and we need to celebrate our past and try to promote the future.

Chairman Perry recognized Holly Audette of 609 W. Main Street, Elizabeth City who said she joins the Board in being so pleased to see so many young people involved in ownership of their government as represented here tonight. She said she wishes to point out the value of diversity of our community. She stated that we are so blessed to have it and it is such an enhancing part of life and she is certainly glad to see it represented. Her biggest concern about this issue is the resolution from the city and the request that the commissioners support the resolution. She wonders what their motive is for asking the Board to do something that inevitably cannot be done under the law. She asked who is making the request and why would they do that knowing the law will not allow for what the Board is being asked to do.

Ms. Audette said in her remaining time she wishes to point out some of the response from Senator Phil Berger to our Governor Roy Cooper when he made the request to have monuments removed from the Raleigh Capital. She is only going to speak to some sections of it, but she has it in full if anyone is interested in the whole thing. In his letter to Governor Cooper, Senator Berger asked why he wants to move the monuments of regular North Carolinians who died during the Civil War, most of whom did not own slaves, a monument of a grandmother or child erected to honor the hardships and sacrifices of North Carolina women during the Civil War, and a monument to an unlucky nineteen year old carpenter’s apprentice from Tarboro who was the first North Carolinian killed in the Civil War, but wants to keep the following statues of members of your own political party on state capitol grounds: Democrat Governor Charles Aycock, an avowed white supremacist who with the backing of the *News & Observer*, red shirts, and KKK helped lead a bloody coup overthrowing the North Carolina governing coalition of republicans, African Americans, and poor whites; Democratic Governor Zebulon Vance, a Confederate Colonel from a family that owned slaves, who historians describes as the leader of a

political party that destroyed the promise of reconstruction and imposed segregation upon North Carolina.; and Democratic President Andrew Jackson who forcibly removed North Carolina Native Americans from their tribal lands and sent them on the deadly trail of tears.

Ms. Audette stated that relevant portions of the North Carolina Law removing historic statues specifically says an object of remembrance that is permanently relocated shall be relocated to a site of similar prominence, honor, visibility, availability, and access that are within the boundaries of the jurisdiction from which it was relocated. An object of remembrance may not be relocated to a museum, cemetery, or mausoleum unless it was originally placed at such a location. She said since August, the press has been told that statues should not be in a place of honor such as our state capitol and our Civil War history is important, but it belongs in textbooks and museums and not a place of allegiance on our capital grounds. Mr. Berger told the Governor that the North Carolina Historical Commission cannot legally grant his request and to please reconsider his priorities and withdraw his request. She stated that she adds that same context to our decision tonight with regards to the current law. People are obviously very free to lobby effectively and vote to have the law changed, but to ask the Board to participate in something that the law will not allow them to do begs the question, what is the purpose of doing this.

Chairman Perry recognized Joseph Persico of Church Street, Elizabeth City who said he does not have too much to say tonight. He noted that he has been coming here for the last four or five meetings saying the same thing and the Board already heard his points. At this point, he said the Board has either decided to ignore them or to think about them. He asked the Board to put their selves in the place of the people that this is offending. He stated that nobody is asking for history to be erased and he is very aware of the laws saying that we cannot just go and move the statue, but he is also aware that our county and our city can go to the state government and fight for the things that their city or county wants. He is embarrassed that we are still talking about this today. He said these statues were not erected during the war or right after the war, they were erected much later during the era of Jim Crow Law to remind everybody who was in power. He said this courthouse is supposed to be a place of equality and justice so clearly putting something that represents inequality on courthouse grounds makes no sense.

Chairman Perry recognized John Bannow of 106 Tiara Court, Elizabeth City who said he comes tonight as a military veteran of twenty one years. He said he is not from the south so he does not understand the southern culture or the southern heritage, because he is from the north, which does not make him a bad guy. He noted that he just ended up here, but noted that he likes it here. He finds it offensive that someone wants to remove a statue of a military veteran. This is a war memorial and it is to honor, as the statue says "Our Heroes". He said some people may disagree with him and say they are not heroes, but if you look back to the Revolutionary War, the people who fought against the crown and won became heroes. He said the south actually lost the war against the northern aggression and now they become something other than heroes in other peoples' eyes. He finds it offensive his self and to other veterans that we would want to remove a military statue with the things going on in today's age such as NFL football players taking a knee during the National Anthem and members of this audience taking a knee or sitting down during the Pledge of Allegiance. He said even though our constitution gives them that right, he finds it offensive. He asked that we keep the statue as it is.

Chairman Perry recognized Linwood Gallop of 604 Cardwell Street, Elizabeth City who said he has often thought about this issue as if he were sitting in the Board's shoes. He said this issue has nothing to do with most of what we have heard today. He stated that this is a constitutional issue and the Board was sworn into office to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of North Carolina. The statue is a history of treason and sedition that have gone on in this country for well over 150 years and has not been addressed. When they seceded in 1861, the Union left the United States of America and they were no longer considered citizens of the state and they no longer had rights at that time. He said they are not American and yet we are still trying to honor them at our courthouses throughout this land. He feels that is not the right thing to do and it is not the constitutional thing to do. He said we have and still have today, behind this twisted history, 150 years of sedition action still going on that has not been addressed. He said that is why we have the problems we do today in the White House and throughout this country. At some point in time, our politicians must address this issue as the constitutional issue that it is. He said around 1877 the federal government gave up the issue so it was not addressed. He went on to say that the descendants of this country must address the issue. It is sedition. It is treason. It is 150 years of Jim Crow Law. He said the same statues and

those same uniforms are also the same uniforms that started the KKK. He said we have to make a decision.

Chairman Perry recognized Desmond Hardy who is a student at ECSU who said he would like to start off by saying we are all given the right to say our opinions, whether it is taking a knee or coming such as he has to speak tonight. He said on the statue it says "Our Heroes". He stated that he would like to think of a hero as someone who is fighting for everyone and protecting everyone, such as a firefighter or someone in the United States Military. He feels it may be offending to some, but not to all military people. He explained that his father retired after twenty years in the Marine Corp recently and he has multiple uncles in the military. He does not believe something should be on the courthouse green that says "Our Heroes". He stated that the Confederates conceded from the Union in order to preserve slavery. Preserving slavery may be worth fighting for some people in the south. He was born in the south as well and he did not live in that time, as many of us here did not. He noted that when he reads history, he would not have sided with the Confederates at all. To see something that says "Our Heroes" is offensive, because in no way is he a hero to him or to many of his people.

Chairman Perry recognized Matthew Jarvis of 1704 Weeksville Road, Elizabeth City who said he is the President of the ECSU Chapter of the NAACP. He said he is here to say that we need to stop disguising racism as southern pride through the likes of this statue. As we stand throughout the whole United States, from Charlottesville to Dylann Roof the Confederate flag has been a symbol of white supremacy. He said the Neo-Nazis' used their flag to represent white supremacy and that is not right. He said if you wear that flag, you are basically labeling yourself a racist and you might as well wear it on your head. If someone puts the flag up in their business, they will not get any business from minorities and it will hurt their business. He asked that we take the statue down.

Chairman Perry recognized Darrell Andrews of 1704 Weeksville Road, Elizabeth City who is a current student at Elizabeth City State University. He said neither the flag nor the statue stand for equality. He feels it should be taking down. He asked what the purpose of having the statue up is if they look at it and see no love. He stated that they only see hate from it. He said when something is hurting the human body we have it removed or we make peace with it. He stated that the statue is hurting the heart of several minorities. He asked that the statue be taken down. He told the Board that they are all here for a reason and he wants to know when they are going to actually stand up and use their voices. If you don't use your voices, people are going to be offended and we are not going to be able to move forward as a country or a little town.

Chairman Perry recognized Keith Rivers of 104 Grandview Drive, Elizabeth City who said he has stood before them Monday after Monday and has requested that the Board take the "higher moral ground" and support a resolution that would remove a monument that bares the Confederate flag from public property. He said Adolph Hitler and the Nazi symbol was offensive to Jews and the rest of the world. It is so ironic that if somebody walked down the street with a Nazi swastika on or said we are going to put a poster up of Adolph Hitler, everybody in the room would be offended. He asked if the Nazi regime was very much like the Confederacy. He said it had nothing to do with American heritage. The Confederate flag is not permissible on a military installation. He noted that he is also a veteran of twenty one years and there is not a military installation in this country or abroad that you can drive through the gate with that flag on your vehicle nor is it admissible in our public school system. He said this is because it is offensive. He stated that the argument is not about what you believe, but it is about respect.

Mr. Rivers compared the monument to sexual harassment in the workplace. He said he was on ships when there were no females, but when they put females on the ships and she walked in and said your conversation was offensive then you had to stop that conversation. If she walked into the workplace and said a calendar of ladies with swimsuits on was offensive, then you had to take it down, because each and every individual in this country has the God given constitutional right to be free from oppression when it comes to public property. He said this monument that bares the Confederate flag is on public property. He said the resolution is asking that we prepare ourselves, because God is going to do the right thing as he did with the 13th amendment that abolished slavery, as he did with the 14th amendment that gave citizenship, and as he did with the 15th amendment that granted African American men the right to vote. These monuments are going to be removed and put in their proper place. Again, he said this is offensive and if you choose not to support a resolution to remove the monument then you are sending out a message

to 38% of this county that is African American that your mouth and your actions are two different things. He said you may say you have black friends and you associate with black people, but the monument is okay because you don't find it offensive. He stated that 38% of this county says "let your actions speak louder than your words". He noted that Monday after Monday we have failed to see one African American to come up and tell you that the monument is not offensive. He asked the Board to take the "higher moral ground".

Chairman Perry recognized Quincy Henderson who said he is a future leader of ECSU. He said he is here today to speak on behalf of the future. He said in today's society we have every right to believe that the statue is a war memorial, however what does it symbolize in today's society. When you look at Dylann Roof, he has multiple images and pictures of him standing in front of Confederate statues posing and saying this is what I believe and this is what I do. He said for those of you who do not know who Dylann Roof is, he is the guy who went to a South Carolina church and shot it up.

Chairman Perry asked Mr. Henderson to please address the Board and not the audience. Mr. Henderson asked that the Board understand that for us to move into the future sanely in regards to protecting themselves we must understand that we have to change something now. He said if we do not change these statues we will have more violent crime. According to FBI.gov violent crime in this country has risen by 6% due to statues of this nature. He asked that we take the statue down in honor of young, black Americans of this society.

Chairman Perry recognized Scott Perry who said he would like to talk about why the monuments came about throughout the south. He said the left's narrative is it was because of the era of Jim Crow. But between 1911 and 1915 was the 50th Anniversary of the Civil War. There was a population that came out of a horrible economic and military occupation after the war. It was horrible on everyone that lived here. If you were a sharecropper and lived in this county, whether you were black or white, you were poor. If you worked for the Robinsons here in town, all of your disposable income went back to them in the form of housing and food. He said we did not even have a choice in grocery stores until Food Lion came and they fought that. He said his point is the 19th century had a different mentality of death. If you recall reading your history, people went to graveyards and had picnics because they had a different relationship with their ancestors. This goes back to the most ancient of western civilizations. He stated that it is still done in Japan today. He went on to say the reason the monuments are in the town square is because folks came to town once a week; maybe once a month and they had to have a space to heal. The monuments were a bridge to healing and bringing this country back together. Another bridge was the Spanish American War. It was the first time that the South participated with the Union in a war to defend the country.

Mr. Perry stated that when you put yourself in the sense of a 19th Century mindset, you had to have some place to heal. He said this is very complicated and cannot be told in two minutes. He said there were people that would spend eight hours while their wives were shopping in the downtown area to just contemplate what happened to them in the war. Woman had a disposable income of 10 to 15 cents a year selling eggs. He does not think that these women forming a monument committee before there was even United Daughters of the Confederacy would ever dream of putting these monuments up in the face of Jim Crow. He does not believe that was their intention in the 1870s. He said when you think about the logic of it, he does not think anyone else believes that either. He went on to say that Jim Crow was put into place in 1896 by the Supreme Court of the United States. He said it was a wrong decision and it was a bad decision. The monuments were put there between 1911 and 1915 to help children, grandchildren and those veterans that were left to heal from their losses in the Civil War. He said he realizes that we quit teaching history and grammar a generation ago. He said he is a Perry and he can promise you that they did not feel this way through any of this.

Chairman Perry thanked everyone for their expressions and for being respectful of one another. He suggested that everyone take a look at their smart phones and ask the question "why the monuments were built" and you will probably get an idea of why we have different opinions.

Chairman Perry called for a short recess.

2. PRESENTATION OF PINS TO EMPLOYEES FOR YEARS OF SERVICE:

The following employees were eligible to receive pins for their years of service to Pasquotank County:

Employee	Department	Year Pin	Date Hired
Joyce Pritchard	Register of Deeds	30 year	07/06/1987
David Meiggs	Sheriff	25 year	07/15/1992
Aaron Wallio	Sheriff	20 year	09/18/1997
Mike Cox	Attorney	15 year	09/16/2002
Robert Cutler	EMS	10 year	05/01/2007
Melissa Joines	Planning Dept.	10 year	07/01/2007
Charles Lewis	Water Dept.	10 year	07/09/2007
Jovin Viruet	Tax Dept.	10 year	08/01/2007
Laura Cutler	EMS	10 year	08/01/2007
Connie Evans	Maintenance	10 year	09/04/2007

Chairman Perry presented pins to the following employees: Robert Cutler, Laura Cutler, and Mike Cox.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Chairman Perry asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. County Manager Bunch requested that the following item recommended from the Finance Committee be added to Consent Agenda: 1) Approval to authorize sole source purchase of 2018 Mack truck for Solid Waste Department and the following items to new business: 1) Consideration of taking action on the City of Elizabeth City's resolution requesting the Board petition the state for permission to remove the Confederate monument on the courthouse grounds and 2) Consent to closure of Sentara Albemarle Regional Medical Center Operations in Kitty Hawk.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Bettie Parker to approve the amendments to the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of September 18, 2017 Commissioner Meeting

b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds

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

Tax Releases

		County	City
1.	Stokley's Excavating	304.92	
2.	Stockbridge at Tanglewood Res. Prop. Owners Assoc.	2,433.20	2,069.80
3.	Sigthpath Medical LLC NC-15	118.98	102.54

Tax Refunds

		County	City
1.	Arelion Murray & Janet Melvin Berry	192.78	
2.	Arelion Murray & Janet Melvin Berry	233.32	
3.	Arelion Murray & Janet Melvin Berry	233.32	
4.	Arelion Murray & Janet Melvin Berry	233.32	
5.	Arelion Murray & Janet Melvin Berry	236.39	

Solid Waste Fee Releases

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Melba Bridgeman	P7-16	Vacant
2.	Linda Bridgeman Etal	P6-26	Vacant
3.	Erma L. Green	28-B-7	Vacant
4.	Elizabeth S. Overton Life Est.	P98-16	Vacant

5.	Janice Poole & Hattie Poole	P95-21	Vacant
6.	C. E. & Blanche Price	50-B-16	Vacant
7.	C. E. & Blanche Price	56-E-5	Vacant
8.	C. E. & Blanche Price	29-D-15	Vacant
9.	Charlie E. Price	P98-3	Vacant
10.	Charlie E. & Blanche Price	32-H-12B	Vacant
11.	C. E. & Blanche Price	55-E-25,26	Vacant
12.	Beatrice Scott	29-D-7,8,9	Vacant

c. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

E911

Increase	022.0220.4532.00	Other Grants	827,984
Increase	022.4328.5600.00	Grant Funds	827,984
Increase	022.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	300,000
Increase	022.4328.5500.00	Capital Outlay	300,000

Schools

Increase	010.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	502,530
Increase	010.5910.5636.01	Additional Funding	502,530

d. Approval of Sole Source Purchase of Mack Truck for the Solid Waste Department

The Finance committee has recommended approval for sole source purchase of a 2018 Mack truck to continue standardization of its fleet in order to minimize maintenance and repair cost. Bids are to be solicited from Mack Dealerships within 250 miles of Elizabeth City.

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

5. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REPEAL OF THE 80% TAX CREDIT FOR SOLAR ARRAY FACILITIES:

The Board considered adoption of a resolution supporting repeal of the 80% tax credit for solar array facilities. County Manager Bunch stated that Currituck County adopted a similar resolution and requested that we consider same.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Bill Sterritt to adopt the following resolution supporting repeal of the 80% tax credit for solar array facilities. The motion carried six to one, with Commissioner Winslow voting against the motion.

RESOLUTION OF THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REPEAL N.C. GEN. STAT. §105-275(45) EXCLUDING EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE APPRAISED VALUE OF SOLAR ENERGY ELECTRIC SYSTEMS FROM AD VALOREM TAX

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2016 the North Carolina law allowing a thirty-five percent tax credit on renewable energy production systems ended; and

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

WHEREAS, in 2017 renewable energy development in Pasquotank County comprised of solar energy electric systems encumbered 508 acres of land with real property investment in the amount of \$68,260,097; 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 \$105,120 rather than \$525,602 any other commercial

development not receiving preferential tax treatment under the statute would be required to pay; and

WHEREAS, a community hosting solar energy electric systems should receive the full benefit of such development within its boundaries particularly since solar energy electric systems reduce open space and useable farmland and generate visual and other impacts unwelcome to property owners adjacent to solar energy electric systems; and

WHEREAS, it is apparent that by allowing expiration of the state's thirty-five percent tax credit on renewable energy production systems the North Carolina General Assembly has determined that incentives are no longer necessary to encourage renewable energy development like solar energy electric systems in North Carolina and repeal of N.C. Gen. Stat. §105-275(45) is necessary and appropriate.

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

Section 1. Pasquotank County requests that its legislative delegation sponsor 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 2nd day of October, 2017.

Commissioner Winslow explained that he voted against the motion because he believes the tax should be reduced, but he does not believe we should tax it at 100%. He feels it should be negotiated in the legislature.

6. CONSIDERATION OF TAKING ACTION ON CITY OF ELIZABETH CITY'S RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE BOARD TO PETITION THE STATE FOR PERMISSION TO REMOVE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT FROM COURTHOUSE GROUNDS:

Chairman Perry asked Vice-Chairman Sterritt to read the resolution received from the City of Elizabeth City appealing the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners to petition the state for permission to remove the Confederate Monument located on the County Courthouse Grounds from public property and relocate it to a more appropriate private venue.

Commissioner Dixon explained that we received this resolution from the City of Elizabeth City asking us to consider removing the monument under current statutes. He does not understand why people are continuing to ask the Board to remove the monument when the Board does not have that authority. He said there is a law on the books that says there are only five reasons it can be moved. He noted that our local representatives do not support moving the monument. He said comments need to be directed to Representative Steinburg and Senator Cook. The Governor of our state cannot even remove the monument on our capital because the Historic Commission said they cannot. He noted that our hands are tied.

Vice-Chairman Sterritt read the resolution.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Frankie Meads to decline acting on the City of Elizabeth City's resolution requesting the Board to petition the state for permission to remove the Confederate Monument from Courthouse Grounds based on the fact that the Board does not have the authority to move the monument.

Commissioner Dixon said the City can petition the General Assembly to overturn the law passed in 2015 if they so choose.

Commissioner Parker stated that she has lived in Elizabeth City all of her life and she loves it here and loves the people here. She said she has voiced her opinion on the monument situation in 2015, 2016, and once again in 2017. What she is hearing is that we are not making it actually about the monument, but we are making it a racial issue. She heard some say it is erasing history. All she feels is division. She grew up in Weeksville and when she looks at the monument she sees what her parents had warned her of and that is if you see a rebel flag run, because they do not mean you any good. She grew up with that. She said as she looks out into the audience now, it takes her back to when we were divided racially. She said many people hurt when they look at the monument. Confederate soldiers and their families perished, Union soldiers and their families perished, and slaves and their families perished. She said that is the hurt that she feels when she looks at the monument that has the rebel flag, because that is what she was brought up being warned not to get in their way.

Commissioner Parker said she lived in the county growing up and there were ditches on each side of her dirt road. She remembers a car with a rebel flag on its license plate that made motions that it was going to run several of her friends down. This has stayed in her heart for an awful long time. What hurts the most tonight is that it seems we are going backwards. The whites are clapping for the whites and the blacks are clapping for the blacks. Unity is what we need in this town. She said she found unity when she started working at Northeastern High School in 1972. She stated that there were those who would phone in bomb threats because they did not want to see us unified, but it did not work. She often times was the only black person in the math department teaching. She said she taught an Algebra II class that she was the only black person in the classroom. She taught white children and they learned from her and they loved her, as she loved them. She loves each and everyone in the courtroom tonight and she is prayerful that we do not let an inanimate object divide us. She said she does not want to see the monument defaced or vandalized, but she does want to see love. She said “justice is what love looks like in public and we are in public”.

Vice-Chairman Sterritt said the document he read from the City of Elizabeth City is a little too strong for him. He said there is no way that he can vote in favor of the motion. He thinks there are other things that can happen. We should be supporting the governor to get the law changed. He said it is premature to say we are not going to do anything.

Commissioner Meads said he wants to state that he is not a racist and he does not appreciate this being called a racist issue. He gave examples of experiences he has had in the past couple weeks. He said all of his constituents he has spoken to do not want the monument moved. He said he does not always vote according to what his constituents say because he has a conscious and a mind of his own and he votes the way he believes is the best for the public all together. He said an African American individual told him that he can put the monument in his front yard because it doesn't bother him. He told a story of two young African American boys that he recently bought meals for at McDonald's because they were hungry. He said in the end the boys were very happy and he was glad he was able to do it for them.

Commissioner Winslow said most of his adult life he has fought injustice. He stated that slavery is something that none of us here tonight has dealt with. As far as going back to the Civil War and knowing what they thought in 1911 he doesn't think anyone can truthfully say what was in their minds at the time. We can say what we think, but we do not know for a fact because we were not living. He has heard that these monuments were built with money from little old ladies, sisters, and other family members to honor some of their family members that never came back from Gettysburg and other places. He said with the problems we have today, such as human trafficking, drug, and crimes in the streets, let's get together and pull for something that we can solve that will accomplish something. He said let's have a cause and work together and make this country better.

Chairman Perry said everyone here knows exactly where he stands. He stated that he is perhaps much older than anyone in the room. He said his great grandmother who lived on Okisko Road was born in 1852 and she was a slave. He noted that his grandfather could not write and signed his name with an X. He walked to a one-room school three miles each way from his house every

day. When he walked down the dirt road a bus load of white children would pass by and stick their heads out the windows and spit on he and his brother. His great grandmother, who could not read, could not teach his grandfather to write. He said his great grandmother told them they need to learn how to read and write. He said he taught an awful lot of black and white children and he was asked to come back here to teach mathematics in 1959. He taught Mr. Walton, Ms. Parker, and Mr. Walton's wife. He said he never told them the hardships that he had as a child. Everything he ever read and everything his teachers taught him said "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal", but he remembers traveling to New York and being told when he got to Dover, Delaware that he had to get off the bus and go to the back. People think he should forget those things, but it is impossible for people to forget some things. He said if someone in your family was murdered or sexually harassed he doubts very seriously you would forget it. He said everything he has read about monuments after 1900 were built to actually create a superior race. He noted that African American's fought under General Wild in the Civil War and black people died also.

Chairman Perry said our true problem is how African American people are treated today. When you start looking at our society today there is not equality. All you have to do is look around in our community and look at the people with good jobs, the people without jobs and look at the reason why everything that you see exists. He said he is not putting it on any one group of people. He stated that we better learn how to love one another and not try to hide all the hate stuff. He told everyone to look at their computers and they will see why the symbols are out there. He thinks everyone will read that they are out there because during the Jim Crow period people were locked up because they didn't have a job. People went two hundred years without having a job and working for nothing and there are still symbols out that. He tried not to express the way he feels, but he sees that there are more people out there that know more history than a lot of other people. He said we cannot help people that want to come to our community with division. He said only the Good Lord can tell what bothers someone else.

The motion carried four to three, with Commissioners Dixon, Griffin, Meads, and Winslow voting in favor of declining the City's resolution and Commissioner Perry, Parker, and Sterritt voting against the motion.

7. CONSIDERATION OF CONSENT TO CLOSURE OF SENTARA ALBEMARLE MEDICAL CENTER OPERATIONS IN KITTY HAWK:

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Frankie Meads to consent to the closure of the Sentara Kitty Hawk Facility as requested in a letter from Sentara to the County dated September 21, 2017. The motion carried unanimously.

8. COUNTY MANAGERS REPORT:

County Manager Bunch provided the following report:

ARHS and the Albemarle Overdose Prevention Coalition is partnering with Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology to offer Opiate/Meth Awareness Training for our region in October. The training will focus on preventing public sector workers from being exposed to opioids and methamphetamine out in the field. The course is designed as a hazard awareness course and basically informs workers how to recognize these substances, how to protect oneself from overexposure, and the use of naloxone to reverse overdose, and how to recognize when an overdose occurs.

Emergency Services Director Jerry Newell participated with the Elizabeth City Fire Department as the emcee for the annual Fire Safety Show last week. This was the seventh year that Jerry has helped the ECFD with the show. The show ran 9/27 through 9/29 at the Mickey Burnim Fine Arts Center on the ECSU Campus. The program teaches children and adults safety practices such as: when and how to call 9-1-1, how to get out of a fire safely, how to check smoke detectors, establishing a safe place in the event of an emergency, and what to do if your clothes catch on fire.

Finance Officer Sheri Small is in the process of working on 4 different audits. The NC Department of Revenue has chosen Pasquotank County as one of the random audits of the annual Sales Tax Refund request. Documents have been pulled and we are waiting on NCDOR to confirm when they will be here to review. Two of the audits are the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013

EMS Medicaid Cost Report. EMS has provided raw transport data for the 2011-2012 that had to be analyzed by Sheri to determine the number of transports for each category: Medicaid, Medicare, dually eligible and "all other". The auditors for annual financial audit were here the week of September 11th. They still have the ad valorem tax revenue and fixed asset field work to complete.

Finance Officer Small is currently trying to resolve with the 911 Board the Annual Cost Report for the 911 Surcharge Funds. The bill for GIS services and IT services performed by Pasquotank and Camden Counties for the 911 system are being questioned. Documentation has been passed back and forth; but not very timely on their end. Sheri has been waiting three weeks for a response on GIS costs she has requested. At this time all costs for these services have been denied.

Our contract with the City of Elizabeth City for Fire Protection Services is due to expire June 30, 2018. The current contract provides that should the County desire continuation of the service after June 30, 2018, the County shall submit a written notice to the City no later than December 31, 2017, at which time the City and County shall begin negotiating terms. I forwarded a letter to City Manager Rich Olson September 28, 2017 expressing our desire to meet to begin conversations about extending the Fire Protection Services Contract.

We received the annual maintenance agreement for the Vicom phone system for the Public Safety Building, Courthouse, Utility Building, Elections, Library, and Tax/Register of Deeds in the amount of \$26,436. This is a \$573 decrease from the 2016-17 maintenance agreement. Funds for payment of the maintenance agreement are included in the 2017-18 budget.

9. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Parker participated in the Local Candidates' Political Forum on September 19th. On September 25, she attended the City Council Meeting. On September 27, she performed a 30 minute interview on the "Around Town with Hez Brown" Talk Show on WRVS regarding "Why I wanted to Become Mayor of Elizabeth City?" and "What I intended to do to Bring About Positive Change?" Lastly, on September 28th, she attended the "Men of Excellence" Awards Breakfast where three of her fellow Commissioners were nominated: Dixon, Perry, and Sterritt; with Chairman Perry actually being one of the recipients of the Men of Excellence Award.

Commissioner Griffin reported on the new limousine business located in the Pasquotank County Commerce Park. He stated that staff should be committed to working with them. The Marketing Committee met for the Committee of 100 and talked about the Retire Here campaign. He provided an update on the runway improvement project at the airport. He attended the Albemarle Commission meeting last week. He reported that efforts for building a new building have has been reduced to looking for a building that can be reused that is in a centrally located area. Workforce Development is trying to recruit and create jobs.

Commissioner Dixon said the Board needs to establish a timeline for hiring a new county manager, as well as update the job description.

Commissioner Winslow will be attending the NCACC Meeting in Kitty Hawk on Friday and Saturday. He told Chairman Perry that he is sure that his great grandmother would be very proud of the man that he has become, just as he is. He said we still have a long ways to go, but we have come so far.

Commissioner Meads informed the Board that the Dangerous Dog Committee is in need of an additional appointee.

Vice-Chairman Sterritt will be attending the Committee of 100 meeting on Wednesday. On Thursday evening he will attend a program at Museum of the Albemarle about the Underground Railroad.

Chairman Perry received an award for "Men of Excellence" this past weekend. He thanked everyone for their support. He said he has lived here for a very long time. He has seen lots of changes and improvements, but he said we still need to look at ourselves and one another and try as much as possible to love one another. He said love is shown by what you do and not what you say.

There being no further business;

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Jeff Dixon to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD