

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
OCTOBER 16, 2017**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, October 16, 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
Shelley Cox, Planning Director
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 Northeastern High School Student Parker Betts led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Perry welcomed everyone present.

Northeastern High School Principle Alvin Campbell thanked the Board for allowing one of his best and brightest students to lead in the Pledge of the Allegiance. He said he is very passionate about the job he does, which makes it easier to wake up and come to work. He noted that his school will be performing testing in the near future and encouraged the Board to volunteer as proctors. He thanked the Board for their continued support.

Battle Betts, Health Director thanked the Board for the opportunity they provide to the schools and students to stand before them and see how the political process works. He thinks it is a really neat concept.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT ON COURTHOUSE PROPERTY:

Chairman Perry recognized Keith Rivers, President of the Pasquotank County Branch of the NAACP who shared his objections to the confederate monument remaining on courthouse property. He asked that the Board support a resolution to remove the monument from public property to its appropriate place.

2. PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION FOR LONG TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH:

Chairman Perry called on Mr. Sean Lavin and Mr. David Boone, county representatives on the Pasquotank Joint Community Advisory Committee, to accept a proclamation for National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month. He read and then presented the following proclamation:

**National Long-Term Care
Residents' Rights Month 2017
Proclamation**

It's All About Me: My Life, My Care, My Choices

Whereas, there are more than 1.6 million individuals living in 16,000 nursing homes; and 1 million individuals living in 50,000 board and care/assisted living facilities in the U.S.; and

Whereas, the federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 guarantees residents their individual rights in order to promote and maintain their dignity and autonomy; and

Whereas, all residents should be aware of their rights so they may be empowered to live with dignity and self-determination; and

Whereas, we wish to honor and celebrate these citizens, to recognize their rich individuality, and to reaffirm their right to vote and participate politically, including the right to have a say in their care; and

Whereas, individuals and groups across the country will be celebrating Residents' Rights Month with the theme –“It's All About Me: My Life, My Care, My Choices”– to emphasize the importance of affirming these rights through facility practices, public policy and resident-centered decision-making.

Now, therefore, I, Cecil Perry, of the County of Pasquotank, do hereby proclaim October 2017 as **National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month**, in the County of Pasquotank, and encourage all citizens to join me in these important observances.

Presented this 16th day of October, 2017

Mr. Lavin thanked the Board for proclaiming National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month and giving it the attention it deserved. He said he has enjoyed his fairly recent appointment to the committee. He said Mr. Boone, who is chairman of the committee has been very patient and kind in teaching him a lot about the very important job they are doing in our community.

Mr. Boone stated that the residents of the homes they attend get really excited when they find out that their county commissioners think enough of them to take time out to present a proclamation to them. He presented the Board with a letter from the Friends of the Library thanking them for providing funds in the budget to purchase a new bookmobile. He congratulated Commissioner Parker on being elected Mayor of the City of Elizabeth City.

Chairman Perry said he would like to let Commissioner Parker know how proud the Board is of her for being elected Mayor of the City of Elizabeth City. He stated that he was Ms. Parker's math teacher in high school and she did her student teaching under him. When he was transferred from being her teacher to Assistant Principal of Northeastern High School, Ms. Parker was his replacement. He said he was chairman of the hospital board's appointments committee and Ms. Parker served on the hospital board. He told Ms. Parker even though she has followed in his footsteps, he does not plan on following her at this time. He congratulated her on her recent election as mayor.

3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

a. Approval of Minutes of October 2, 2017 commissioner meetings

b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following tax 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 that the Board approve the following budget amendments:

Parks & Rec

Increase	010.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	54,500.00
Increase	010.6130.5359.00	Maintenance-Grounds	54,500.00

Soil & Water

Increase	010.0230.4370.00	Grants	44,257.00
Increase	010.4960.5440.00	Contracted Services	44,257.00

Public Bldgs

Increase	010.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	36,079.00
Increase	010.4190.5500.03	Capital Outlay-Edgewood Ctr	36,079.00

Public Bldgs

Increase	010.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	406,764.00
Increase	010.4190.5351.02	Maintenance-Old ECMS	406,764.00

d. Approval of Eight Hours of Vacation Time for United Way Drawing

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board authorize eight hours of vacation time for one employee whose name will be drawn from the pool of all employees who contribute a minimum of \$24 to the United Way.

e. Approval to Fund "Elizabeth City Retire Here Campaign"

The Committee of 100 proposed a campaign to market Elizabeth City as a retirement destination to retiring military and government personnel, Elizabeth City State University alums, and others. Total budget for the campaign is \$45,000, of which \$20,000 has already been committed by private sector organizations. The Finance Committee has recommended the Board mirror the City of Elizabeth City's contribution of \$5,000 toward the campaign. If funding is approved, an application for tourism funds will need to be submitted.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Joe Winslow to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT ZTA 17-01:

Chairman Perry declared the meeting to be a public hearing on Zoning Text Amendment ZTA 17-01. He called on Planning Director Shelley Cox to outline Zoning Text Amendment ZTA 17-01. Ms. Cox explained that the Board met last spring to discuss some of the changes that are being proposed. The amendments were reviewed in a Board of Commissioners Work Session on August 21st, 2017.

Ms. Cox explained that the amendments slightly increase some of the setbacks for solar farms developments in the county. In addition, it requires landscape buffers to create a green screen around solar farms, particularly when they are adjacent to residential uses or street right-of-ways. She stated that it strengthens the ordinances requirements in regards to aesthetics. In addition, the ordinance has some provisions to help us ensure ongoing maintenance of the facilities occurs. She said there were concerns about grass potentially growing high in some of the developments and not being maintained, so a provision was added that a certain height of grass be maintained and landscape buffers will have to be maintained as well. If at some point in the future the landscape buffer starts to look bad, or some of the trees start dying we can send them a letter notifying them that it is a requirement of their permit that they maintain the landscaping. She stated that another standard that is strengthened with the ordinance is the decommissioning requirements. In the past, the decommissioning allowed for salvage value to be part of the calculation. The amendment proposes to remove the salvage value completely. She noted that the salvage value is very volatile and can change tremendously over the thirty-year life of a project. A bond would be required that is equal to the cost of decommissioning. She said an additional new requirement, which is also required for Conditional Use Permits, is the decommissioning bond plan must be updated every five years to make sure that the costs remain current and that the bond will cover problems in the future if they occur. Commissioner Griffin asked how staff will monitor the bond plans. Ms. Cox said there is a calendar in the Planning office that is used to track street bonds, cell tower bonds, and other types of bonds.

Chairman Perry shared his concerns regarding the 150' setback. He feels it is a great distance. He feels a farmer who wishes to sell his land will be losing a lot of property. Ms. Cox said the setback is mainly for aesthetic reasons. She noted that they require a very large chain link fence surrounding them and some people expressed that the aesthetics of seeing the fence along the roadway is unsightly. She said the setback also applies to residential uses, so the solar farms cannot be built right up to your property line. Two rows of trees will be required if there are no existing trees that meet the buffer standard. She said the very first application they saw with this type of development was off of Mount Hermon Church Road. The developer came in first thing and completely logged out a tract of land and everyone that lived adjacent to the tract was very upset because all of trees were gone all of sudden. Then the developer came back with the solar farm application which added insult to injury with the property owners. She said we will try to encourage developers to maintain a little bit of green buffer between the residences and the solar farm to help preserve a more natural environment.

Ms. Cox shared maps of the Morgan's Corner Solar Farm, which was initially three different tracts of land. She said the maps will give you an example of what kind of impact these buffers will have on an existing farm. She said it will not affect an existing farm because it is grandfathered in, but it gives you a visual of what it might have looked like. She explained that three of the areas on this project were not significantly impacted by the buffers that are being proposed. She said the only one that would be impacted was the tract of land that was south of US 158, because there was a residence next door and the tract of farm land was so narrow the additional 150' buffer really narrowed the area where the solar panels could go.

Chairman Perry asked for comments from members of the Board. Commissioner Dixon thanked staff for their hard work on this project.

Chairman Perry asked if anyone from the public would care to address the Board. At the absence of comments, the public hearing was closed.

Attorney Cox stated that since 2015 a consistency statement has been required for zoning text amendments. On October 1, 2017 those requirements were tightened. He said staff has prepared a resolution to adopt the consistency statement that the Board will need to adopt in addition to the Zoning Text Amendment.

Motion was made Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Joe Winslow to adopt the following resolution which contains the required consistency statement regarding Zoning Text Amendment ZTA 17-01:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A STATEMENT OF COSISTENCY
FOR TEXT AMENDMENT ZTA 17-01

WHEREAS, Section 153A-341 (2017) of the North Carolina General Statutes specifies that the governing board shall approve a statement describing whether its action is consistent with an adopted comprehensive and any other officially adopted plan that is applicable; and

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners considers the Zoning Ordinance text amendment to Article 9; Section 9.04-29 Solar Farms to be consistent with the Pasquotank County Elizabeth City 2004 Advance Core Land Use Plan and is reasonable and in the public interest because it will help to mitigate potential impacts from commercial solar farms to the surrounding area and will help ensure that the site will be returned to its original state after decommissioning; and

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners conducted a Public Hearing on October 16, 2017 for consideration of text amendment cast ZTA 17-01 as submitted by the Planning Department staff;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY:

Finds that the adoption of the text amendment as represented in ZTA 17-01 is consistent with the Pasquotank County Elizabeth City 2004 Advanced Core Land Use Plan and is reasonable and in the public interest based on consideration of the application materials, information presented at the Public Hearing, and the recommendation provided by Staff and the Pasquotank County Planning Department.

ADOPTED this 16th day of October, 2017.

and to approve the following text amendment as presented by staff. The motion carried unanimously.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE REGARDING BUFFERING AND DECOMMISSIONING FOR SOLAR FARMS (ZTA 17-01)

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. §153A, Article 18, Part 3 provides that a county may enact a zoning ordinance to promote the health, safety, morals or general welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank County has adopted a Zoning Ordinance ; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to amend Article 9, Section 9.04-29 (“Solar Farms”) of the Zoning Ordinance to address issues dealing with buffering and decommissioning of Solar Farms; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Staff recommends approval of the proposed amendment; and

WHEREAS, on September 28, 2017, the Pasquotank County Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the proposed text amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners held a duly-noticed public hearing on October 16, 2017 to consider amending the Zoning Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR PASQUOTANK COUNTY THAT:

Section 1. The Zoning Ordinance is amended by rewriting Section 9.04-29 Solar Farms as follows:

9.04-29 Solar Farms - Solar farms are permitted in districts as designated in the Table of Permitted Uses, subject to the following requirements:

- a. Structures shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height, as measured from grade at the base of the structure to its highest point;

- b. All structures and security fencing shall meet the following setbacks:
 - 1. 150' front property line setback;
 - 2. 50' side and rear property line setback;
 - 3. 150' setback from adjacent residential property lines or residential zoning districts;
 - 4. 100' minimum setback from CAMA designated navigable water bodies and Army Corps of Engineers wetlands. Any other additional setback required by the Army Corps of Engineers or CAMA shall also apply.
- c. All exterior sides of the security fence shall be screened with a landscape buffer that meets one of the following criteria:
 - 1. Existing on-site mature vegetation at a minimum height of ten (10) feet and depth of fifty (50) feet remains between the security fence and adjacent property including rights-of-way; or
 - 2. A single row of evergreens in combination with mature vegetation, installed at a height of five (5) feet achieving opaqueness and a minimum height of ten (10) feet in five years; or
 - 3. A double row of off-set evergreens absent existing mature vegetation, installed at a height of five (5) feet achieving opaqueness and a minimum height of ten (10) feet in five years; or
 - 4. A berm combined with evergreen vegetation installed at a height of five (5) feet achieving opaqueness and a minimum height of ten (10) feet in five years.
- ~~d. Solar farm facilities and structures shall conform to the minimum building setback requirements of the zoning district in which they are located, or thirty (30) feet, whichever is greater;~~
- e. ~~Buffering~~
 - ~~1. Solar farms with panels located at least one hundred fifty (150) feet from an adjacent public street right of way, residentially zoned property, or residential use shall not require screening;~~
 - ~~2. Solar farms with panels that are located less than one hundred fifty (150) feet from an adjacent public street right of way, residentially zoned property, or residential use shall require screening in accordance with the landscape standards found within Article 10 of the Zoning Ordinance.~~
- d. Solar farms shall be developed in accordance with an approved site plan that includes the following information:
 - 1. The location of the solar farm facility (including the arrangement of any existing or proposed buildings, structures, or panels);
 - 2. The distance from any proposed solar farm facility or structure to the surrounding property lines;
 - 3. Any existing or proposed signs, fencing, lighting, **construction and permanent** parking areas, driveways, landscaping, vegetative screening or required buffers. **All parking must be located outside of the state right-of-way;**
 - 4. Horizontal and vertical (elevation) to-scale drawings with dimensions of proposed solar collector structures
- e. Solar energy components must have a UL listing and must be designed with anti-reflective coating(s).

- f. Landscape buffers, ground cover, security fences, gates, and signage must be maintained in good condition until the solar farm is dismantled and removed from the site. Grass, weeds, and other ground cover must not exceed 12 inches in height at any time.
- g. An engineered drainage plan meeting the minimum requirements of the Pasquotank County Stormwater Design Manual shall be required with the submittal of the Conditional Use Permit application. Solar farms are required to be constructed according to their approved drainage plan.
- h. Decommissioning:
 - 1. A decommissioning plan shall be required as part of the Conditional Use Permit application. This plan shall be prepared by a third party engineer and must be signed off by the party responsible for decommissioning and all landowners of property included in the project. The following items are required to be addressed or included in the decommissioning plan:
 - a. A description of any agreement (e.g. lease) with all landowners regarding decommissioning;
 - b. The identification of the party currently responsible for decommissioning;
 - c. The type of panels and material specifications being utilized at the site;
 - d. All costs for the removal of solar panels, buildings, cabling, electrical components, roads, fencing, and any other associated facilities down to 36 inches below grade;
 - e. All costs associated with the grading and re-seeding of disturbed earth from the project.
 - 2. Prior to the issuance of the building permit, the decommissioning plan shall be recorded by the applicant in the Pasquotank County Registry of Deeds.
 - 3. The decommissioning plan and estimated cost of removal shall be updated every 5 years or upon change of ownership of either the property or the project's owner. Any changes or updates to the plan shall be recorded in the County's Registry of Deeds.
 - 4. The owner of the solar farm shall provide a bond, cash escrow, or irrevocable letter of credit in favor of the County in an amount equal to one and a quarter times the estimated decommissioning cost. Should the solar farm owner elect to use a letter of credit, it shall be issued by a federally chartered bank with a branch office in northeastern North Carolina in favor of Pasquotank County. The institution issuing the guarantee shall provide to the county a notice no less than 90 days in advance of any renewal, cancellation, termination, or expiration of the guarantee. The bond or letter of credit shall remain in full force and effect until any necessary site restoration is completed to restore the site to a condition comparable to that which existed prior to the issuance of the Conditional Use Permit.
 - 5. Solar farms shall have 12 months to complete decommissioning of the facility if no electricity is generated for a continuous period of 12 months. For purposes of this section, this 12 month period shall not include delay resulting from force majeure.
 - 6. The decommissioning bond shall be drawn and paid for an amount equal to the estimated removal costs of the solar facility in the event the

responsible party fails to decommission the solar facility pursuant to the requirements of this section and the Conditional Use Permit.

- ~~1. Solar farm owners shall have twelve (12) months to complete decommissioning of the solar facility if no electricity is generated for a continuous period of twelve (12) months. This period may be extended by the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners, if evidence is provided that the delay is due to circumstances beyond the facility owner/operator's reasonable control.~~
- ~~2. Decommissioning shall include removal of solar collectors, cabling, electrical components, and any other associated facilities down to thirty-six (36) inches below grade.~~
- ~~3. Disturbed earth shall be graded and re-seeded, unless the landowner requests in writing that the access roads or other land surface areas are not to be restored.~~
- ~~4. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, the owner of a solar farm shall provide a bond or irrevocable letter of credit in favor of the County in an amount equal to the estimated removal cost of the solar collectors, cabling, electrical components, and any other associated facilities, less the salvage value of the equipment prior to construction. If the solar farm owner elects to use a letter of credit, it shall be issued by a federally chartered bank with a branch office in northeastern North Carolina. The bond or letter of credit shall remain in full force and effect until any necessary site restoration is completed to restore the site to a condition comparable to that which existed prior to the issuance of the Conditional Use Permit.~~

Section 2. This ordinance is effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 16th day of October, 2017.

5. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT FOR DARK FIBER TO COMMERCE PARK:

Attorney Cox asked that we open a public hearing since we are spending economic development funds to bring dark fiber to the Commerce Park to allow for faster internet speeds for the businesses in the Commerce Park.

Chairman Perry declared the meeting to be a public hearing.

Commissioner Dixon asked for clarification on who pays the annual license fee. County Manager Bunch stated that the County pays the fee and Eastern Shore Communications will reimburse the County for the complete amount for the first two years. Then, they will pay the County 10% of their proceeds. He explained that MCNC will provide the dark fiber to the water tower and once it is in place the County will contract with Eastern Shore Communication to sell the signal.

Commissioner Meads said he has seen signs throughout the County advertising for high speed internet and the customer pays for the service. He asked if anyone else has seen these signs. Commissioner Dixon said the customer will pay at the Commerce Park as well. He noted that new internet options have put pressure on current providers to lower their prices.

Chairman Perry asked if anyone from the public would care to address the Board. At the absence of comments, the public hearing was closed.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Bill Sterritt to approve a five-year contract with MCNC to extend dark fiber from US 17 North into the Pasquotank County Commerce Park in the amount of \$21,217, plus an annual license fee of \$3,628. The motion carried unanimously.

6. REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER:

County Manager Rodney Bunch provided the following report:

Tuesday, October 10th – the Pasquotank County Tax Department hosted the Albemarle Ad Valorem Tax Association’s meeting at the Cooperative Extension Center. The Association includes Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Tyrell, Washington, Hyde, Chowan, Perquimans, and Gates Counties. Attendees enjoyed dinner followed by a presentation by Robin Rogers, Property Valuation Specialist II, with the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

Providence VFD – The NCDOT recently completed resurfacing US 17 North (North Road Street), north of Elizabeth City. The resurfacing project included widening the crossover in front of Providence VFD. Commissioner Winslow has communicated with me and Jerry Jennings, NCDOT Division Engineer about the possibility of installing emergency signalization to be activated when fire apparatus responds. Mr. Jennings responded that their Division Traffic Engineer indicated a preliminary estimate for the signal would range from \$40,000 - \$60,000. The NCDOT does not currently have a funding source for this type of construction. The County/VFD would be responsible for the costs of the improvements. Robert Boyce, VFD Coordinator has not found grant funds for these improvements to date.

Brad Gardner, Solid Waste Director has solicited a Request for Proposals for the purchase of a 2018 Mack Truck from seven dealerships within the 250 mile radius of Elizabeth City. Bids are to be submitted to the County Manager’s Office by 10:00 AM, Wednesday, October 25, 2017.

Wednesday, October 18th – EMS Committee met. It was recommended that the County prepare a RFP to hire a consultant to review call history, project future growth, determine future infrastructure needs, and evaluate locations for needed expansion. We have outgrown the original building at the hospital site. Commissioner Dixon stated that a request will be brought forward in the future. He stated that the EMS Department sits in a very old building and they have outgrown the building. Calls have increased by 10% per month. He said the EMS board is looking at all their options, including relocating the facility and leasing.

Commissioner Winslow said he would like to make the Board aware that there is a public safety issue at the Providence VFD. They are in need of emergency lighting on the four-lane highway. Currently someone is standing in the intersection and waving traffic down, which is very unsafe. He said he would appreciate support on this issue from his fellow board members. He thinks the volunteer firemen who work there, as well as the community deserves decent traffic lights at that intersection.

Chairman Perry said he attended a football game at Northeastern High School last Friday night. He said one of the players from the opposing team injured his arm and he did not see an ambulance on site. He asked staff to question whether ambulances are stationed at games.

7. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Parker attended the Elizabeth City Area Committee of 100 Economic Development Luncheon on Wednesday, October 4th. On October 12th she attended the Trillium Health Resources Advisory Board meeting. She said she was one of the speakers at the “Access Point Kiosk” Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the health department. The Access Point Screening Program is designed to provide people with access to anonymous, evidence-based screenings for mental health and substance use challenges. On Saturday, October 14th she participated in the ECSU 2017 Viking Homecoming Parade. Lastly, on October 10th she was elected to be the next mayor of the great city of Elizabeth City. She said her official installation date is December 11th. In the meantime, she will continue to serve the people in her capacity as a county commissioner, as she transitions to the position of mayor, where she will continue to serve the people of this area.

Commissioner Parker stated that Chairman Perry has been an exceptional role model for her and many others in this community. She said she would like to publicly thank him for that because it has made a big difference. She noted that she is not an established politician. She never even dreamed of being in the position that she is sitting in now, but it has been very rewarding. She feels that she has done service to many during the short time she has been here. Her expectation is to continue to serve the people. She said to serve God’s people is the rent that we pay for living here on this earth and she shall keep her rent paid.

Commissioner Griffin reported that the new passenger ferry is expected to be available for next summer. He said the State of North Carolina has invested hard earned tax dollars to try to relieve some of the pressure to Ocracoke and Hatteras.

Commissioner Dixon stated that he is really glad that the County invested money in the 800 MHz radios system, because he feels they really made a difference during the recent attempted prison escape. He said he would like to send out thank-you letters to the surrounding counties and the Coast Guard for their support during the outbreak.

Commissioner Dixon said he is concerned that Currituck is trying to divert I-87 through Hale's Lake and tie into Moyock and make people pay the \$6 toll on the Expressway. He feels it would double the cost of the project. After discussion, Attorney Cox was instructed to compose a resolution stating that the Board opposes the new route for I-87 and supports the original plan. He was asked to bring the resolution forward to the next meeting.

Commissioner Winslow said this community was hit very hard and some beautiful lives were lost at the prison this past week. He asked if there is anything we can do as a county to show our support for those people who lost their lives and the families that were affected. He said we all feel that pain of what happened. He attended the NCACC meeting on October 6th at the beach. He was sworn in as the District I Director and will represent ten counties in Northeastern North Carolina. He hopes the appointment will allow him to know some things that are occurring that he can pass to the Board as they occur or in some cases before they occur.

Commissioner Meads stated that the officers at the prison are "Heroes" as far as he is concerned. He agrees that the I-87 route needs to be close to Highway 17.

Vice-Chairman Sterritt and his wife attended the Underground Railroad function at the Museum of the Albemarle with Chairman Perry and Mrs. Perry. He said it was an outstanding presentation. He reported that the Community Relations Commission met last Monday and discussed the possibility of undertaking a public forum on the monument issue. He said they will invite individuals from outside the committee to give presentations. On November 14th, the Department of Social Services will hold their annual breakfast. He reminded the Board that there will be an angel tree for them to pick a star from and provide an individual with Christmas presents. The Witherspoon-Harris Ceremony will be held on November 15th. The recipient of the award is Ms. Julie Robinson who is very active with the SOULS feeding program, as well as the Spanish community.

Chairman Perry said he participated in the ribbon cutting at Trillium. He stated that there are many things going on around us and we really need to look at how we deal with one another. He said as the son of a minister he has learned that love is much more important and much stronger than hate. He said darkness cannot put out light, but light can certainly put away darkness. We need to learn how to live together and love one another.

County Manager Bunch noted that the last set of minutes were extremely lengthy due to public comments. He explained that the clerk informed him that she learned at the clerk's certification school she attended, as well as the attorney from conferences and training that he has been to, that details are not required in the minutes for public comments. Basically, you can list the person speaking, the item, and whether they are in favor or not in favor. He stated that all the additional comments do not have to be included. He added that it takes an awful lot of time to type and proofread. He said unless the Board objects we are going to start following the path of what we are taught. Chairman Perry asked if when we have controversial subjects on the agenda can we limit comments to Pasquotank County residents. Attorney Cox said we cannot limit the individual from speaking, but we can limit the time they are allowed to speak.

There being no further business;

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Joe Winslow to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD