

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
NOVEMBER 20, 2023**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, November 20, 2023 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles H. Jordan, Chairman
Barry Overman, Vice-Chairman
Lloyd E. Griffin, III
Sean Lavin
Sam Davis, III
Clifford Shaw

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan Meads

OTHERS PRESENT: Sparty Hammett, County Manager
John Shannon, Assistant County Manager
R. Michael Cox, County Attorney
Sheri Small, Finance Officer
Mike Barclift, Management Fellow
Jerry Newell, EMS Chief
Selenamarie Suber, Community Paramedic
Adrienne Cole, Code Enforcement Officer
Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Charles Jordan. Chairman Jordan welcomed those in attendance. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Commissioner Sean Lavin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

Vice-Chairman Barry Overman requested that the agenda be amended to add the following items to the Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of Emergency Medical Services Franchise Agreement; and 2) Approval of Sale of Surplus Property.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Sam Davis to amend the agenda to add Items #1-2 to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

2. EFFECTIVELY ALLOCATING OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS:

Chairman Jordan called on Nidhi Sachdeva, MPH, Director of Strategic Health and Opioid Initiatives with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners to present on the opioid settlement funds and the benefits of a Syringe Service Program in addressing the opioid crisis.

Ms. Sachdeva presented the following presentation via Zoom:





North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

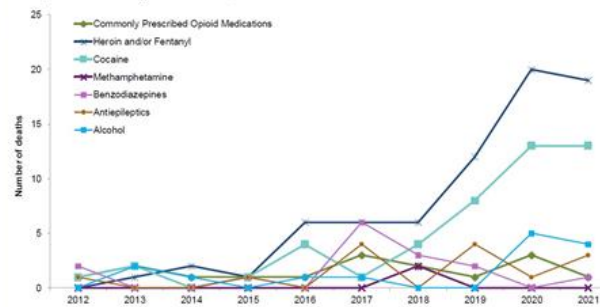
NC Data, Trends

- **11** North Carolinians died each day from drug overdose (2021), 8 of which were due to opioids
- **More than 32,000** North Carolinians lost their lives to drug overdose (2000-2021)
- Many more people, families, and communities impacted



North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

Substances* Contributing to Overdose Deaths Pasquotank County Residents, 2012-2021



*These counts are not mutually exclusive. If the death involved multiple substances, it can be counted on multiple lines.
 Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics-Deaths.
 All intent medication, drug, alcohol poisoning: X4D-X45, Y1D-Y15, X85, or X6D-X64 with any mention of specific T-codes by drug type
 (Commonly Prescribed Opioids, Heroin, Other Synthetics, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, Psychostimulants, Antiepileptics and Alcohol).
 Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

NCCHRS, Division of Public Health | County Overdose Slides | Data final through 2021



North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

National Opioid Settlements



Funds: National = \$50B+

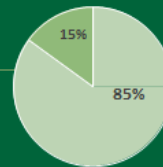
	Manufacturers	Distributors	Pharmacies	Funds to NC
Bankruptcies	Purdue Pharma Mallinckrodt Endo			\$150M
Settlements (Wave One)	Johnson and Johnson (subsidiary Janssen)	Cardinal McKesson AmerisourceBergen		\$750M
Settlements (Wave Two)	Allergan Teva		CVS Walgreens Walmart	\$600M

\$1.5B
to NC
over 18 years



North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

NC Legal Framework



- **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)**
 - Governs Wave One settlements and bankruptcies
 - 15% to state / 85% to locals
- **Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds (SAAF)**
 - Governs Wave Two settlements
 - 15% to state / 84.62% to locals / 00.38% to local counsel
 - Says "use the MOA for everything else"
- **Allocation of Funds to Local Governments**
 - NC local governments entitled to receive funds
 - All 100 counties
 - 17 municipalities that filed suit or have over 75K population



MOA Includes 5 Broad Requirements for Local Governments

1. Establish and use a special revenue fund
2. Authorize spending ahead of time
3. Understand and follow Option A and Option B
4. Follow all reporting requirements
5. Hold annual public meeting



3. Understand and follow Option A and Option B

- Planning is good and is always supported, whether you proceed under Option A or Option B or both

A

Authorize spending on strateg(ies) from Exhibit A

B

First, engage in collaborative strategic planning process
Then, authorize spending on strateg(ies) from Exhibit A or B



Remediation Strategies

In line with the National Settlement Agreement, funds “may support **programs or services**...that serve persons with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) or any cooccurring Substance Use Disorder (SUD) or mental health condition.”



NC MOA Option A: High Impact Abatement Strategies



1. Collaborative strategic planning

2. Evidence-based addiction treatment

3. Recovery support

4. Housing

5. Employment

6. Early intervention

7. Naloxone

8. Post-overdose response

9. Syringe service programs (SSPs)

10. Legal system diversion

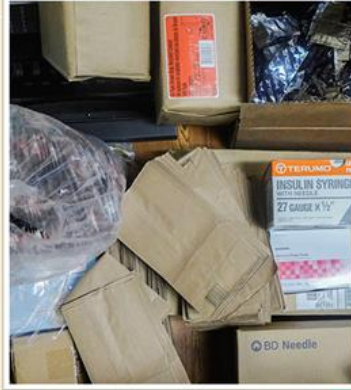
11. Addiction treatment for incarcerated persons

12. Reentry programs



9. Syringe Services Programs

- Legalized in NC July 11, 2016
 - Any governmental or nongovernmental organization "that promotes scientifically proven ways of mitigating health risks associated with drug use and other high risk behaviors" can start a SSP
- A key purpose is to provide participants with sterile syringes and facilitate safe disposal of syringes
- **Cost effective, evidence-based strategy**
 - Reduce overdose deaths
 - Reduce transmission of blood-borne pathogens including HIV (by 50%) and hepatitis C (HCV)
 - Connect participants to treatment and care (5-7x more likely to connect to treatment)



North Carolina Safer Syringe Initiative

Welcome to the North Carolina Safer Syringe Initiative. Here you will be able to find information about existing syringe exchange programs in the state, resources for healthcare providers and law enforcement agencies, testing and treatment programs, details about the limited immunity provided under the syringe exchange law, and information for health departments, community-based organizations, and other agencies interested in starting their own exchanges. Please find an updating list of active programs and contact information [here](#).

North Carolina Safer Syringe Initiative Assistance

As of July 11, 2016, North Carolina ([S.L. 2016-88](#)) allows for the legal establishment of hypodermic syringe and needle exchange programs. Any governmental or nongovernmental organization "that promotes scientifically proven ways of mitigating health risks associated with drug use and other high risk behaviors" can start a syringe exchange program (SEP). The Division of Public Health and the Department of Health and Human Services do not operate syringe exchanges in North Carolina.

Included in the law is a provision that protects SEP employees, volunteers, and participants from being charged with possession of syringes or other injection supplies, including those with residual amounts of controlled substances, *provided* if obtained or returned to a SEP/SSP.

Public Health

Child Service Coordination

North Carolina Safer Syringe Initiative

Syringe Exchange Programs in North Carolina

Syringe Exchange FAQs

Quick Answers for Law Enforcement Personnel

Participant Cards and Limited Immunity

Resources for Providers

Preventing Transmission of Infections

HIV and Hepatitis C Prevention and Treatment Resources

SSPs are critical touch points within communities

Required Core Services

Educational Materials

Syringe & Supply Access

Secure Disposal

Naloxone Kits and Referrals

Referrals to Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment (as needed)

Overdose Prevention Education

Safer Use Education

Referrals to Housing Supports

MQOUD Access

Referrals to Medical and Social Services

Support Groups and Advocacy

Post-Overdose Response

Food

Legal Services

Wound Care

Case Management

Hepatitis C Treatment

HCV and HIV Testing, Care Linkages

PrEP for HIV Prevention

Job Training / Professional Development

Expanded Sexual Health Services

Additional Services

NC Syringe Service Programs

- As of June 30, 2023, there are a total of **50** registered Syringe Services Programs directly **servicing over half (58)** of NC counties and one federally recognized tribe across NC
- For a continuously updated list of registered SSPs, visit <https://tinyurl.com/NCSSIList>



North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

NC Syringe Service Programs

(as of June 30, 2023)



- Of these 50 SSPs, **31** operate using a fixed-site location, **33** operate using mobile services, **25** operate using peer-based distribution, **25** operate in an integrated space, and **16** operate using delivery services
- Note that many SSPs utilize more than one program model



North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

NC SSPs, 2022-2023



- **34,016** unique individuals served across all programs
 - Of participants, **56%** were male and **85%** identified as white. Black/African American (9%) and 2% of participants were American Indian
- **126,797** total contacts (more than year before)
- **Over 7,421 referrals** to SUD or mental health treatment
- **1,000** tested for Hepatitis C / **960** tested for HIV
- **5,505** referrals to HIV/HCV testing and treatment providers
- **8.0+ million syringes** and over **109,000 naloxone kits** were distributed
 - **16,712** overdose reversals were reported back to SSPs



North Carolina Injury & Violence PREVENTION Research



North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

System Drivers of HEALTH



NC SSPs, 2022-2023

8,500 referrals to system drivers of health services



North Carolina Association of County Commissioners


SSP Cost Savings



- Increasing access to SSPs and naloxone saves lives and money

Every Effort	Saves Money
\$5 dose of naloxone...	could save \$20,500 in potential medical costs to treat an overdose
\$1 invested in SSPs...	could save \$6.38-\$7.58 in HIV treatment
\$0.10 sterile syringe...	could save \$250,000 for a heart valve replacement due to endocarditis plus the cost of a 4-8-week hospital stay
\$1 invested in substance use disorder treatment...	could save \$4-\$7 in criminal justice related costs





North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

Syringe Disposal

- NC law encourages syringe return to ensure that they are disposed in a safe and secure manner, but does not require participants to return used syringes
 - People can also dispose of syringes in hard-wall containers as part of their household waste, as generally allowed by state and local law
- To prevent risk of infectious diseases, a new, sterile syringe is recommended for each use.
 - Distribution of sterile syringes and new injection supplies at **no cost and in sufficient quantities** to prevent sharing or reusing = NC Law does allow for 1-for-1 exchange



North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

Resources

- **Community Opioid Resources Engine (CORE-NC)**
ncopioidsettlement.org | ✉ opioidsettlement@unc.edu
- **NC Department of Justice**
morepowerfulnc.org/opioid-settlements | ✉ opioidsettlement@ncdoj.gov
- **NC Association of County Commissioners**
ncacc.org/opioidsettlement | ✉ opioidsettlement@ncacc.org
- **NC DHHS**
ncdhhs.gov/opioid-and-substance-use-action-plan-data-dashboard | ✉ opioidsettlement@dhhs.nc.gov



North Carolina Association of County Commissioners

Thank you!

Questions and curiosities, clarifications, comments, complaints or celebrations?



Commissioner Griffin asked how the counties who currently have syringe service programs introduced them into their counties. Ms. Sachdeva said it has been done in many different ways. Some have used their Health Departments or Emergency Medical Services Departments, because they already do a lot of work with syringes and disposal. They have also seen colocations of treatment programs. She said it is important that the programs can say we understand that opioid use disorders are a recurring and relapsing disease, and they want to make sure that people stay safe if they do return to use because they are a real part of peoples recovery and healing. They can offer treatment when the individual is ready, but if that is not the right fit for them at the time, they can help the individual stay disease free and alive. She said there are quite a number of nonprofits that start SSPs that are community oriented organizations. There are quite a number of faith based programs in North Carolina within churches. She said these programs are essentially a great opportunity for us to keep people safe, keep people alive, keep people disease free, and prevent overdose. They can also prevent officers from being stuck with dirty needles.

Commissioner Lavin said he is going to take a guess and say that the 58 counties that currently have SSPs were operating prior to the opioid settlements and the remaining counties have decided not to implement such a program basically because it wasn't a good fit for their community, for whatever reason. He asked did I hear that right. Ms. Sachdeva said she is not

able to say exactly why the other fifty counties have not yet done a SSP. She is sure they have lots of good reasons. Commissioner Lavin said it is probably because it wasn't a good fit for their community. He stated that everybody has had the opportunity to make those decisions, but now there is funding available. He said there are reasons why people would decide not to put one of these programs in their community. From his perspective, it would be based on people being put in a position to decide, and they do not feel that it is the right fit for their community. There are a ton of other good programs that the Board can put money into, even within the SSPs. It sounds like there are a lot of other side efforts that the Board can undertake to really bring a big benefit, but the biggest point that he has heard in the community against this entire program is the needle exchange. He said that may be a very small part of the program, but that is what everyone is latching onto.

Ms. Sachdeva said there are many strategies that can save lives, so she likes to say she does not have favorites with any of the 12 strategies that are in the settlements. She states that it matters less to her where counties start. Local North Carolina counties are building off of decades of work around overdose crisis right now. It's not new to our communities, even though the settlement dollars are. We have all been feeling the effects for twenty years. There are a number of counties and local governments that have already built their infrastructure and can continue to invest with the settlement dollars. In her dream, personally, all counties will have all twelve strategies someday. She said of the 37 local governments that have already authorized spending the settlement dollars, at least five are doing SSPs. She stated that SSPs offer much more than just syringes and there are grants available to cover some of the complimentary services that come along with SSPs.

Chairman Jordan thanked Ms. Sachdeva for coming and providing information to the Board.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Jordan asked that public comments not be directed toward individual commissioners or staff.

COMMENTS BY WAYNE PARKER:

Chairman Jordan called on Wayne Parker of 115 Brickhouse Lane to address the Board. Mr. Parker asked how many shootings have taken place near the location of the proposed Syringe Services Program. He would like to see two rehab centers built – one in the western part of the state and one in the eastern part of the state.

COMMENT BY RENEE STALLINGS:

Chairman Jordan called on Renee Stallings of Pineview Drive to address the Board. Ms. Stallings asked what makes the needle coming from the program any more special than the needle out on the street, because once it is injected, it is dirty. She does not understand why the county wants to give out needles that do not have to be returned. She also opposes the location. She wants help for people with addiction, but our county does not have medical professionals to help these individuals get referrals and the help they need. She was told addicts are immune and if they are walking down the street and inject themselves, they can look at a police officer and tell them that they are using the program. She asked are drugs being legalized these days. She thanked the Board for the work they are doing, but she wishes the program was based on helping people and not just handing out needles.

COMMENTS BY JILL REID:

Chairman Jordan called on Jill Reid of 577 Body Road to address the Board. Ms. Reid said she spoke with the principle at PW Moore today who was only informed about the program two weeks ago. The principle has been dealing with the City to try to get that straight because she does not want it located near her school. In three days, she received signatures from 50 people who do not want the SSP. She said the speaker said this program will keep our children safe and alive. She asked the Board how putting this program near a school is going to make those children safe and alive.

COMMENTS BY SHARON STANLEY:

Chairman Jordan called on Sharon Stanley of 114 Planters Run to address the Board. Ms. Stanley said she does not think that the SSP is a good fit for the street that is proposed. She thinks it is way too close to an elementary school and it is not fair to them. It's not that great of a neighborhood to begin with, and they have a lot of things to deal with, and now the Board is

proposing adding more to their plate. She thinks that is wrong. She believes if the people who gave the county this grant really want to help people, they would be more proactive than reactive. She stated that you can't always fix things being reactive. She believes you must start with the children and teach them that drugs are not the way to go, and give them opportunities. She loves PW Moore. Both of her children went there and her church has adopted the school. Three weeks ago, neither the principle nor the school superintendent had any idea about the proposed program. She said children need Jesus.

COMMENTS BY CARL WITTEN:

Chairman Jordan called on Carl Witten of 800 W. Church Street to address the Board. Mr. Witten said he does not have enough knowledge about the opioid program to be able to talk intelligently about the pros or cons. He has two grandchildren that attend PW Moore and his main concern is the safety of the children at PW Moore.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR KIRK RIVERS:

Chairman Jordan called on Mayor Kirk Rivers of 306 Colonial Avenue to address the Board. Mayor Rivers said he found out about the SSP two weeks ago, and he is here because the residents, parents and principle of PW Moore have not been given the information they need to make knowledgeable decisions. He feels the Board has not informed individuals within the proposed area, such as when there are changes in zoning. Within the last two weeks, he has spoken to representatives of the ward where the proposed program will be in, and they were not aware. He asked that the Board not vote on the program tonight without talking to the residents. He said if the Board wants to proceed with the program, they should look at other locations, because there are two schools within a two minute walk of the location. He is strongly opposed to the location.

COMMENTS BY WADE REID:

Chairman Jordan called on Wade Reid of 577 Body Road to address the Board. Mr. Reid said he tried to listen as best he could to the lady's presentation and everything else that has been said. A lot of statements were made about how many lives would be saved with the program. His question is how many lives would be saved if we took drugs off the street. He told the Board to wake up and do something that will help the community. In 1960, he was 13 years old and had an accident about a mile back in the woods and broke his hip. He was in the hospital for two weeks. He had multiple World War I and World War II veterans visit him at the hospital who advised to not to let them give him any Morphine. The veterans said they were given Morphine on the battlefield and wished that they had never taken it. He said his generation had education from respected men that fought for our freedom that every one of these drug addicts crave.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT ZTA #23-02

Chairman Jordan opened the Public Hearing at 6:53 PM and called on Planning Director Shelley Cox to present Zoning Text Amendment ZTA #23-02

Planning Director Shelley Cox explained that Zoning Text Amendment #23-04 is brought before the Board tonight at the request of the Board of Commissioners. The ZTA would reinstate duplexes, which are two family dwellings, as a permitted use in the A-1 Agricultural District. Previously, there was a ZTA amendment approved in August which eliminated duplexes as being permitted in the A-1 District. Following that approval, it was requested that the amendment be reconsidered.

Ms. Cox said should the Board choose to reinstate duplexes as a permitted use in the A-1 District staff recommends that the following condition also be adopted:

- Duplexes shall only be permitted on properties that meet the minimum standards of the Pasquotank County Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances. This shall include the requirement that the property has at least 25; of road frontage on a state maintained road and at least 43,000 square feet of lot area.

The reason staff is requesting the condition is pretty much to limit the number of dwellings that could be placed on 10 acre or greater lots to assure that public safety is being met.

Ms. Cox said the NC General Statutes requires that the Board of Commissioners' decision include a brief consistency statement in regards to the adopted Comprehensive Plan. An

advertisement for the public hearing was run in The Daily Advance on Tuesday, November 7th and Tuesday, November 14th as required by NCGS Chapter 160D.

On Thursday, October 26, 2023, the Planning Board reviewed this request and recommended denial of the text amendment by a vote of 7-0. The Planning Board also recommended the following consistency statement be adopted:

The proposed zoning amendment is not consistent with the Pasquotank County Land Use Plan because:

- It does not meet the Plan’s Community Goal #4) Preserve the quiet, rural agricultural character and respect farming and other rural land uses; and
- It does not meet the Plan’s Community Goal #5) Focus urban and suburban growth toward Elizabeth City and key locations at future I-87 interchanges; and
- The proposed amendment does not match up to the Future Land Use Map’s character areas. Typical uses within the Agricultural/Rural land use designation includes “ranching and livestock, forestry, farm fields, and other agricultural uses and supportive structures.

Proposed Ordinance Text
Additions and/or changes to the existing regulations are highlighted in yellow.
Deletions are noted by ~~strikethrough~~.

ARTICLE 7
Table of Permitted Uses

Table of Permitted Uses	SIC	R-15	R-15A	R-25	R-25-A	R-35A	RMH-15	RMH-25	RMH-35	C-1	I-1	I-2	A-1	A-2	O&I	M-F	P-1
Duplexes (See Section 9.03)	0000	-	-	P	P	P	-	-	-	-	-	-	S	-	-	-	-

Chairman Jordan stated that two individuals have signed up to speak regarding the Zoning Text Amendment.

Chairman Jordan called on Sheri Small of 1381 Weeksville Road to address the Board. Ms. Small stated that she comes before the Board tonight to ask that they support the Planning Board’s decision to disallow duplexes as a permitted use in the A-1 Agricultural District. She said the Planning Board has voted to disallow duplexes twice and both votes were unanimous. The Special Use Permit that was granted on Foley Road was passed by a 4-1 vote. There was concern as to drainage, and a report from Dwayne Hinson was submitted. His report indicated that drainage is minimal along Foley Road and the building site should be filled and graded to improve the elevation and the drainage.

Ms. Small said while this construction will personally affect her farmland; it will also affect neighboring areas as well. She noted that the County has spent over \$12,000 on drainage regarding Foley Road so far. The Countywide concern is that the 10 acre subdivisions that the state is allowing will not have to adhere to County regulations regarding drainage and roads. With allowing duplexes in these areas, the number of people that will be affected by the drainage and roads conditions could be double. She asked how many potential Tracy Drives will there be and how many people will be affected.

Ms. Small stated that the Land Use Plan that was adopted in August 2023 states Community Goals #4 is to preserve the quite, rural agricultural character and respect farming and other rural land uses. She asked that the Board support the Planning Boards’ decision on disallowing duplexes in the A-1 Zone and upheld their prior vote in August to disallow duplexes in A-1.

Chairman Jordan called on Billy Mercer of 622 Bayside Road to address the Board. Mr. Mercer stated that he owns agricultural land across from the site on Foley Road. He is concerned about the drainage, because his farm drains through the area. He noted that there are not enough infrastructures in place to support duplexes, the road is narrow, the drainage is poor, and there is a sharp curve. He said if we start making exemptions for one person, we have to do it for everybody. The Planning Board has already turned this down twice, but it keeps being brought back up. He believes if you are involved in real estate and house building, you should excuse yourself from voting on this because it is a conflict of interest because it could potentially put money in your pockets.

Commissioner Davis said it his understanding that only one duplex can be put on a ten acre lot. Ms. Cox explained that if the Board adopted this without conditions, somebody could put a duplex, which is a two family home. Commissioner Davis said we aren't talking about putting ten duplexes on a ten acre lot; we are talking about putting one duplex on a ten acre lot. Ms. Cox said that is correct. She explained that if you have ten, ten acre lots in a subdivision, and there is not road frontage, you are talking about twenty families instead of ten families living there. There would be additional traffic, there would not be any type of fire hydrants in the area for firefighting purposes, and it would be double the number of people that would potentially be calling for an ambulance or a firetruck in the middle of the night trying to go deep down these farm paths that are not improved.

Chairman Jordan closed the Public Hearing at 7:02 PM.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Barry Overman to accept the Planning Board's recommendation to deny the text amendment, which would allow duplexes in the A-1 Agricultural District, and to adopt the following consistency statement:

The proposed zoning amendment is not consistent with the Pasquotank County Land Use Plan because:

- It does not meet the Plan's Community Goal #4) Preserve the quiet, rural agricultural character and respect farming and other rural land uses; and
- It does not meet the Plan's Community Goal #5) Focus urban and suburban growth toward Elizabeth City and key locations at future I-87 interchanges; and
- The proposed amendment does not match up to the Future Land Use Map's character areas. Typical uses within the Agricultural/Rural land use designation includes "ranching and livestock, forestry, farm fields, and other agricultural uses and supportive structures.

Commissioner Davis stated that the Board has one commissioner who is not in attendance tonight so he feels that in all fairness to the community the Board should postpone this vote until at least the next meeting so all members can vote on the issue and make their voices known. He said the Board has been told that we may need additional housing in our community. He feels, knowing that we have to have housing for future development of our area and for commercial growth, that the Board is rushing to judgement. He urged the Board to not vote tonight. Commissioner Lavin said he also thinks that the Board should wait for Commissioner Meads to be here since he was one of the ones who also wanted it brought back up.

Commissioner Overman said does that mean the Board doesn't need to vote on anything anytime a commissioner isn't present. He said the Board was not aware that Commissioner Meads was not going to be in attendance when it was put on the agenda. Commissioner Davis said he is just voicing his opinion. Commissioner Griffin informed Commission Davis that he can make a substantive motion to delay action.

Motion was made by Sam Davis, seconded by Sean Lavin to delay action until all members of the Board are present. The motion failed 4-2, with Commissioners Jordan, Overman, Griffin, and Shaw voting in opposition.

The Board considered Commissioner Griffin's original motion. The motion carried 4-2, with Commissioners Davis and Lavin voting in opposition.

Commissioner Davis noted that he would have done the same things for all the commissioners if they were not in attendance.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

- Approval of Minutes of November 6, 2023 Commissioner Meeting*

b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds

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

Tax Releases

		County	City
1.	United States Postal Service	10,445.82	10,038.84
2.	United States Postal Service	7,862.84	7,482.38
3.	United States Postal Service	7,862.84	7,482.38

Tax Refunds

		County	City
1.	Wayne Barclift	102.85	
2.	Wayne Barclift	104.35	
3.	Wayne Barclift	100.10	
4.	Wayne Barclift	112.10	
5.	Samantha Alberta Johnson	147.97	
6.	Faith Hailey Packman	203.57	
7.	Benjamin Michael Taylor	200.00	
8.	Edward Jerome Larkin Jr.	116.16	188.12
9.	Cassandra Beatrice Sutton & William Turner Sutton	183.47	174.60

Solid Waste Fee Releases

		Parcel ID #	Reason for Release
1.	Mary Elizabeth Eure Life Est.	P59-26	Vacant
2.	James L & Elnora Griffin	56-F-3	Vacant
3.	Andrea Joseline Lopez Vega & Stephanie Olaya	26-F-23	Vacant

c. Approval of Budget Amendments

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

Emergency Management

Increase	010.0220.4532.00	Other Grants	8,000
Increase	010.4330.5652.00	Local Grant-Expenses	8,000

Emergency Management

Increase	010.0230.4433.02	Emergency Management Grants	32,000
Increase	010.4330.5600.40	Grant-EM-CBCG	32,000

Emergency Management

Increase	010.0230.4433.02	Emergency Management Grants	14,500
Increase	010.4330.5600.41	Grant-HSGP	14,500

Emergency Management

Increase	010.0991.4991.00	Fund Balance Appropriated	21,648.00
Increase	010.4330.5636.01	Additional Funding	21,648.00

Soil and Water

Increase	010.0230.4370.00	State Grants	67,190.00
Increase	010.4960.5600.00	Grant Funds	67,190.00

d. Consideration of Library Copy Fee Schedule Changes

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following Library Copy Fee Schedule.

- Black and white copy .15 per page
- Color printing .75 per page
- Faxing 1.00 per page

e. Consideration of Buyout Lease Program for Hazard Mitigation Properties

The County owns five properties purchased with FEMA funds through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Three of the properties are in the Oxford Heights neighborhood, and the County periodically receives complaints due to overgrown grass on the properties. A citizen has inquired regarding the potential of leasing one of the lots. As a result of the inquiry, staff researched the possibility of leasing all of the Hazard Mitigation Grant properties. The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the buyout lease program.

f. Denial of Request to Farm Lots in Commerce Park

Justin James who currently has the farming contract for Commerce Park has requested permission to farm four vacant lots in Commerce Park. In March 2023, the County extended the grass mowing contract for the four lots with #1 Lawncutting & Landscaping for an additional two years, which will not expire until March 31, 2025. The Finance Committee recommended denial of the request at this time due to the current contract with #1 Lawncutting & Landscaping.

g. Approval of Emergency Medical Services Franchise Agreement

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of establishing Albemarle Medical Transport as an Ambulance Franchise to provide point-to-point ambulance transports within the service areas of Pasquotank and Camden Counties.

h. Approval of Sale of Surplus Property

The Board authorized the sale of five county owned surplus properties through the sealed bid process on September 11, 2022. The County received bids on two of the properties on November 6th: 1) the Douglas Street parcel (55-E-105) in the amount of \$650 from Robert W. Luther III, and 2) the Soundneck Road parcel (P98-2) in the amount of \$3,200 from Felicia D. Felton. The Finance Committee recommended approval to accept both offers.

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Clifford Shaw to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Shaw attended the SPCA Board meeting on November 8th. On November 11th, he attended the Veterans of Foreign Affairs Post 6060 event. On November 14th, he attended the PW Moore Family Dinner. On November 14, he attended the Community Meeting held at the Weeksville Lions Club. On November 16th, he attended the Jail Board Meeting.

Commissioner Davis said he knows that we are going to have more meetings that are Zoom meetings that the public is going to attend and he can understand what Mr. Reid was talking about, because he had a hard time hearing what the lady was saying. When she spoke quickly, he really had a hard time hearing. He said he is not sure if it is because of our equipment or because the speakers don't get close enough to their microphones. He said we need to make sure in our new boardroom that we have good Zoom capacity and everybody can hear everybody. He said he doesn't think it would be a bad idea for us to televise the Board's meetings so that everybody will know what the Board is doing.

Commissioner Davis attended the ribbon cutting for the Albatross at the Pines. He attended the Human Relations Commissions' training. He attended the Solid Waste/Landfill Committee meeting. He toured the Solid Waste office space, as well as the Agricultural Extension Office. While touring the Solid Waste Department, there was some mention of the possibility of using the old Jail as a homeless shelter. He attended a United Ministries Council event in Rocky Mount. The council funds a "soup for sale" where they are trying to fund two homeless missions; one for men and one for families. He said we have a serious need for the homeless in Pasquotank County.

Commissioner Lavin said he would like to address some of the comments that we heard earlier today. He wants to separate his comments from any reflection on county staff that has worked on the syringe services program because he thinks they have put a lot of effort into it, trying to compile information, doing research, and providing multiple presentations and meetings. He stated that his comments are not a reflection on them, but just a reflection of the comments that he has received within the community. Like Mayor Rivers said, the comments are overwhelmingly against the program. He has not heard a single argument that it is a good fit in our community. He thinks there are many other ways the Board can use the money to safeguard

the lives and the future of the folks that live within Pasquotank County. He certainly believes that there are steps that need to be made. The opioid crisis is a crisis inside Pasquotank County. There is not one of us that don't have their own story to tell when talking about drug abuse and addiction. He said he doesn't believe that it is the will of the community, and it is the Board's position as commissioners to make those types of decisions, but they must listen to the input of those here in the community, especially those that are going to be right around the proposed area.

Commissioner Griffin attended the ribbon cutting at the Pines. He attended the Albemarle Commission meeting. They talked about nutrition, the regional transportation plan, economic development programs, and work force development program that they are doing. The ten counties in the region continue to fight the legislative agenda in Raleigh to maintain the independence of our ten counties. He said next December Workforce Development will be losing their site in Dare County. Workforce Development serves over 40,000 people in the ten counties trying to help individuals find jobs, and get them educated to get them back into the workforce. The biggest issue they are facing is trying to get the Secretary of Transportation to visit the area and trying to get him to understand that we are about to have two bottlenecks in northeastern North Carolina. One is in the Camden Corridor. Once the 2,600 homes are built, traffic will bottleneck. The other is what are we going to do when we get to the other side of Pasquotank County into Hertford and Gates.

Vice-Chairman Overman said there was a good turnout at his Rotary meeting this month. This month, he was responsible of getting speakers, and he wants to brag on a couple of our County employees. Sheriff Tommy Wooten gave a great presentation a couple of weeks ago, and Jerry Newell came today and did a great job at presenting as well. He attended the COA Finance Committee meeting. He and County Manager Hammett attended the United Way Philanthropy Gala.

Chairman Jordan reminded the Board that they are invited to attend and participate in the many ribbon cuttings that are taking place. He has a Chamber of Commerce meeting tomorrow and will ask them to make sure that all commissioners are receiving e-mails reminding them of upcoming ribbon cuttings.

Chairman Jordan attended a ribbon cutting at Ryan Homes in Adams Landing, where they are constructing some new houses. He attended a dinner provided by SOULS Ministry to thank all of the supporters of their program. He attended an open house at COA to showcase the renovations to their auditorium. He attended a ribbon cutting at The Griffin Three. He attended the Navy Jazz Band concert at Elizabeth City State University. He attended a Veterans Day Celebration, the Green Saves Green meeting, the ribbon cutting for the Albatross at the Pines, the Community Meeting at Weeksville Lions Club, the Solid Waste/Landfill Committee meeting, the Trillium Governing Board Meeting, the United Way Philanthropy Gala, and the PW Moore Family dinner.

There being nothing further to come before the Board;

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Sam Davis to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

CHAIRMAN

CLERK TO THE BOARD