**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA APRIL 5, 2021**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, April 5, 2021in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lloyd E. Griffin, III, Chairman

 Charles H. Jordan, Vice-Chairman

 Cecil Perry

 Sean Lavin

 Barry Overman

 William “Bill” Sterritt

 Jonathan Meads

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sparty Hammett, County Manager

 R. Michael Cox, County Attorney

 Sheri Small, Finance Director

 Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

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

**1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

County Manager Sparty Hammett requested that the agenda be amended to add the following item to the Consent Agenda: Consideration of Letter Urging U.S. Department of Transportation to Support Future I-87 Project Grant Application.

 Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Charles Jordan to amend the agenda to add Consideration of Letter Urging U.S. Department of Transportation to Support Future I-87 Project Grant Application to the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. COMMENTS BY JOHN GREGORY:**

Chairman Griffin called on John Gregory of 103 Dorri Drive to address the Board. Mr. Gregory said he is here tonight to celebrate Pasquotank County Water Systems’ 40th Anniversary. April 1, 1981 Pasquotank County started serving water to the citizens of Pasquotank. He stated that improvements have been made over the years, but there has never been an interruption in service. In 1985, a tank was built at the plant. At that time, they extended to 69 more customers, which left only three unserved customers. In 1988, the plant size was increased from 1.2 MGD to 2.4 MGD and additional wells were brought on. In the mid 90’s, the water department went into the wastewater business. In May 2012, the Reverse Osmosis Water plant came online and the water system was split. Customers north of Halstead Boulevard were served RO water, while those south of Halstead Boulevard were served conventional water from the Weeksville Water Plant. He thanked the Board for their support over the years.

**3. COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMISSION – REQUEST TO REALLOCATE FUNDS:**

Chairman Griffin noted that this request was considered at the March 15, 2021 Finance Committee and failed. He called on Dr. Andrea Williams, Chair of the Community Relations Commission (CRC) to explain the request.

Dr. Williams handed out information regarding CRC and their proposed activities for this year. She said the reason she is here tonight is because she would like to clarify their request to make financial contributions to the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools Foundation – McKinney Vento Homeless Program ($500) and the Food Bank of the Albemarle ($300). Due to COVID-19, the organization has not had in-person meetings, and their operational costs have decreased.

Dr. Williams explained that the commission was created in 2003 for the purpose of promoting equal treatment among all individuals; discourage discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, and family status; create productive and creative capacities; and to promote harmony and equal opportunities among people. She became chair of the commission last year. At that time, the membership was down to two or three people. Normally, 15 people serve. She said she has worked hard to build membership up on the commission.

Dr. Williams said last year they partnered with Elizabeth City State University, and they had a series of civic conversations with various groups to get a better insight on the needs of the community. She said they have identified several things that they want to do, which include looking at various organizations that have a need, recognize individuals (particularly first responders and essential workers), and identify two or three individuals for their Witherspoon Harris Awards Ceremony.

This year, because of COVID, they had to reassess some of the things that they were doing. When looking at areas that were in need, they chose the Food Bank and the McKinney Vento Homeless Program. She explained that CRC’s Fiscal 2021 Plan Overview states that they are mindful of the needs and concerns for strengthening community involvement/relations regarding policing, needs of first responders and educators, and the need for an information resource for residents to address the impact of utilities. It also states that they hope to have dialog and engage community agencies/departments and partners to help address these needs. With that being said, they decided to look at the two organizations, because it was within their scope and nature of what they proposed.

On May 24th, they plan to have a remembrance program, and she hopes that Chairman Griffin or his appointee is able to take part. On May 28th, they will be recognizing first responders and essential workers, as well as four individuals for the Witherspoon Harris Award at the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Parks and Recreation. Instead of a formal dinner, they will be providing attendees with gift cards and certificates.

Dr. Williams said she hopes that the Board will reconsider CRC’s request. She explained that it is not a reallocation, but is part of their plan. She said the feedback she received was that there was a concern that CRC didn’t think they could spend the funds, so they were going to give them up to another organization for reallocation. She does not see it that way, because it is in their 2021 proposal.

Commissioner Sterritt stated that the CRCs bylaws state that they are able to provide the financial support they are requesting without the Boards approval if they have the funds. He said he found out later that there was a rule or policy that needed to be addressed in order to have this happen.

Commissioner Lavin thanked Dr. Williams for coming and presenting. He believes the CRC is an important organization, with an important mission. In addition, he believes the two organizations that have been mentioned in the request are very noble organizations. They serve a lot of people in the community. The CRC’s mission is to promote the equal treatment of all individuals, discourage discrimination of all types, and promote harmony and equal opportunity among all people, and the request came to the Board as a reallocation of operational funds. He does not think that making donations, whether planned or due to COVID, is an appropriate allocation of those funds, so he will be voting no.

Commissioner Meads thanked Dr. Williams for coming and the time she spent on her request. He said this was discussed previously, and it is his understanding that this is something that the County has not done before, and he doesn’t think it is something that should be started. He said his position is the same as it was a couple weeks ago.

Commissioner Overman said he was not at the previous meeting where this request was considered. He’s not sure why the vote failed. He said he can appreciate reallocating funds to these two organizations as well, but he doesn’t know if it is a policy issue. In lieu of him missing the last meeting, he will hold his comments.

Commissioner Perry thinks when this organization was created it was created with some specific objectives in mind. He said the mission should certainly be considered. He looks forward to seeing the commission excel, but he understands what the three previous commissioners said. He said he supports the organization 100%, but the Board will need to decide if the money can be reallocated.

Commissioner Jordan asked Dr. Williams if she is asking the Board if they can reallocate the funds to the two other organizations. Dr. Williams said it is not necessarily a reallocation, because it is part of their plan. She asked if there is a policy in writing that says once an organization is awarded funding that they cannot use the funds to deal with the operations that they have indicated that they would do and their plan of action that has been submitted. Commissioner Jordan asked does she think the request is justified based on the preference of the organization to give the funds to the two organizations. She said she and the CRC do not feel like they are pushing the dollars off because they could not use them, they feel the funds are being used for their mission, according to their plan of action that was submitted with their budget. She said if there is a policy in writing that excludes organizations from working with other organizations, she will agree to that.

Chairman Griffin asked County Attorney Cox for his opinion. Attorney Cox deferred to the County Manager.

County Manager Hammett said the CRC is one of the County’s special appropriations agencies, and these funds have traditionally been allocated for operational expenses, recognitions, awards, and banquets. They have never been used for this purpose. From a staff perspective, staff cannot approve the request. It would need to be approved by the Board, because it is a reallocation.

Commissioner Overman stated that he and Dr. Williams have served on several boards together. He does not want to split hairs, but he doesn’t want to set a precedent either, which could create an opportunity for it to be reoccurring from other groups based on how the budget is given. If we go outside of those lines, it creates a new playing field.

Commissioner Lavin said the CRC can still partner, sponsor, and participate in recognitions, but the way the request is coming to the Board, is not within the way the money was given to the organization. The funds were tied to CRC’s operating expense, and the request is basically a reallocation to give a charitable donation to two other organizations. Dr. Williams asked if it would be appropriate to buy gift cards for the homeless, because they cannot sponsor a dinner during a pandemic. Chairman Griffin suggested the CRC schedule something for the fall. He said if the Food Bank needs money, they should come before the Board, and if the homeless program needs money, they should ask the School Board. He said the Board is concerned with taking funds that are allocated for community relations for their mission and goals, and using those funds for other activities.

Commissioner Perry asked would it be easier if the Board evaluates the possibility of sponsoring the two requests and the CRC keeps their $800 to bring in a speaker for an event. Dr. Williams said they can continue to do the things that they have already planned and work with their organization in addressing their needs. She hopes that the Board will consider the two organizations’ needs. She also said she hopes that the Board will considered televised meetings in the future so that things are more transparent, and people do not have to go on someone’s website to see the operations.

 Motion was made by Bill Sterritt to approve the request by the Community Relations Commission to reallocate $500 of their funds to the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools Foundation – McKinney Vento Homeless Program and $300 to the Food Bank of the Albemarle. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner Sterritt asked if the Board has a Speaker Ban Law. Attorney Cox answered, not that he is aware of. Commissioner Sterritt said North Carolina did away with the Speaker Ban Law in the 50s.

Commissioner Sterritt excused himself from the meeting at 6:45 PM.

**4. SALE OF WINFALL PROPERTY:**

County Manager Hammett explained that at the March 1, 2021 meeting the Board discussed the New Love Fellow Church’s offer of $120,000 for the County’s property located at 333 Winfall Boulevard. He was given the authority to counter at $130,000 and the ability to negotiate down to $125,000. The church countered at $123,000. He said he recommends formally accepting the $123,000 bid and advertising for upset bids. He noted that if the Board accepts the bid, it will need to adopt a resolution.

 Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Jonathan Meads to adopt the following resolution which accepts the bid submitted by New Love Fellow Church in the amount of $123,000 for property located at 333 Winfall Boulevard, Winfall, NC, and begins the upset bid process:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING UPSET BID PROCESS
FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT
333 WINFALL BOULEVARD, WINFALL, NORTH CAROLINA**

 **WHEREAS,** the County of Pasquotank owns certain properties more particularly described as follows:

1. PIN # 7940-82-4604 (1 acre more or less); acquired in Deed Book 211, Page 370, Perquimans County Register of Deeds.

**WHEREAS,** the North Carolina General Statutes §160A-269 permits the County to sell

property by upset bid, after receipt of an offer for the property; and

 **WHEREAS,** the County has received an offer to purchase the property described above, in the amount of $123,000, submitted by New Love Fellow Church; and

 **WHEREAS,** New Love Fellow Church has paid the required five percent (5%) offer on his offer upon;

 **THEREFORE, THE PASQUOTANK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLVES THAT:**

1. The Board of Commissioners authorizes the sale of the Property described above

through the upset bid procedure of North Carolina General Statute §160A-269.

1. The County clerk shall cause a notice of the proposed sale to be published. The

notice shall describe the Property and the amount of the offer, and shall state the terms under which the offer may be upset.

1. Any person may submit an upset bid to the office of the County clerk within ten (10)

days after the notice of sale is published. Once a qualifying high bid has been received, that bid will become the new offer.

1. If a qualifying higher bid is received, the County clerk shall cause a new notice of

upset bid to be published, and shall continue to do so until a 10-day period has passed without any qualifying upset bid having been received. At that time, the amount of the final high bid shall be reported to the Board of Commissioners.

1. A qualifying higher bid is one that raises the existing offer by not less than ten

percent (10%) of the first $1,000.00 of that offer and five percent (5%) of the remainder of that offer.

1. A qualifying higher bid must also be accompanied by a deposit as hereinabove

described; the deposit may be made in cash, cashier’s check or certified check. The County will return the deposit of any bid not accepted, and will return the deposit on an offer subject to an upset if a qualifying higher bid is received. The County will return the deposit of the final high bidder at closing unless the bidder requests the amount be credited towards the purchase price. In the event the high bid is accepted by the County and the high bidder refuses to close on the Property for any reason the bid will be retained by the County.

1. The terms of the final sale are that:
* the Board of Commissioners must approve the final high offer before the sale is closed, which it will endeavor to do within thirty (30) days after the final upset

bid period has passed, and

- the buyer must pay with cash, cashier’s check or certified check at the time of closing, and

1. Title will be transferred by warranty deed.
2. The County reserves the right to withdraw the Property from sale at any time before

the final high bid is accepted and the right to reject at any time all bids.

 Adopted this 5th day of April, 2021.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:**

At the last meeting, the Appointments Committee recommended the appointment of Ronny Williams to the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Community Relations Commission. There were no additional applications, and Mr. Williams’ appointment can now be finalized.

**6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

*a. Approval of Minutes of February 26 and March 15, 2021 Commissioner Meetings*

*b. Approval of Tax Releases and Refunds*

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

 Tax Refunds

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | County | City |
| 1. | Five’s C’s Inc. | 210.13 | 178.75 |
| 2. | Jacquelyn Sierra McLaughlin |  | 139.45 |

 Solid Waste Fee Releases

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Parcel ID # | Reason for Release |
| 1. | Bessie H. Bartell Lfe Est. & Jerry L. Barclift | 58-K-59 | Vacant |
| 2. | Marceil B. Black & Zelma B. Levels | 38-B-160 | Vacant |
| 3. | Evelyn R. Poole  | P98-15 | Vacant |

*c. Approval of Budget Amendments*

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

Occupancy Tax

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Increase | 030.0220.4270.00 | Occupancy Tax Revenue | 250,000.00 |
| Increase | 030.4920.5625.01 | Tourism Development Authority | 250,000.00 |

To increase Occupancy Tax Revenue and increase distribution to Authority.

Newland Drainage

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Increase | 027.0991.4991.00 | Fund Balance Appropriated | 7,500.00 |
| Increase | 027.4731.5350.00 | Maintenance | 7,500.00 |

To appropriate funds for the clearing and snagging of the River and Newland Ditch.

Economic Development

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Increase | 010.0110.4111.12 | Ad Valorem Taxes-‘12 | 2,000.00 |
| Increase | 010.0110.4111.13 | Ad Valorem Taxes-‘13 | 4,300.00 |
| Increase | 010.0110.4111.14 | Ad Valorem Taxes-‘14 | 4,900.00 |
| Increase | 010.0110.4111.15 | Ad Valorem Taxex-‘15 | 10,000.00 |
| Increase | 010.0110.4111.16 | Ad Valorem Taxes-‘16 | 20,000.00 |
| Increase | 010.0110.4111.17 | Ad Valorem Taxes-‘17 | 46,000.00 |
| Increase | 010.0110.4111.18 | Ad Valorem Taxes-‘18 | 3,315.00 |
| Increase | 010.4920.5625.09 | Incentive Grants | 90,515.00 |

To increase appropriation of revenue on collections of delinquent taxes and to increase the appropriation for incentive grants.

*d. Approval to Send of Letter Urging U.S. Department of Transportation to Support Future I-87 Project Grant Application*

Chairman Griffin has requested the Board approve sending a letter to Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Secretary of Transportation, urging him to support the Future I-87 Resiliency, Innovation, Safety, Economy Project grant application.

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

**7. UPDATE ON ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL BY DR. LANDON MASON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Dr. Landon Mason, Executive Director of Economic Improvement Council (EIC), provided an update and thanked the Board for their support.

Dr. Mason noted that 16.1% of the citizens in Pasquotank County live in poverty. Their mission is to target those citizens. They offer five programs which are federally funded: Early Head Start, Head Start, Weatherization, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, and a Community Services Block Program. Fiscal year 2019-20, they spent $3,915,736.62 on the five programs. In Pasquotank County, 86 customers were served through the Head Start Program ($791,837), 40 were served through the Early Head Start Program ($320,000), 465 were served through Section 8 Housing Program ($2,717,208), 9 were served by the CSBG program ($41,396), and 14 were served through the Weatherization Program ($45,294). Total customers served in Pasquotank County were 614, at a cost of $3,915,736.62. The agency served 1,145 families throughout its service area. Almost half were from Pasquotank County.

May 29th they are holding an event called The Big Pop Up Tent Event at the Perquimans County Recreation Center that is open to everyone. Citizens can drive through and pop their trunks, and EIC will pack them with food boxes, household products, and more at no cost. They are partnering with Albemarle Regional Health Services, who will be providing vaccines during the event. These events have been held across North Carolina, and have been very successful. He requested that the Board consider sponsoring the event and/or volunteering.

**8. CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS:**

Finance Director, Sheri Small, recommended approval of the following budget amendments:

Sheriff

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Increase | 010.0600.4930.00 | Insurance Proceeds | 14,389.00 |
| Increase | 010.4310.5500.00 | Capital Outlay | 14,389.00 |

To appropriate funds from insurance proceeds received for the replacement of a totaled vehicle.

Co-Op Ext

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Increase | 010.0230.4370.00 | State Grants | 5,969.00 |
| Increase | 010.4950.5600.34 | Grant-SHIIP | 5,969.00 |

To appropriate funds received from the Department of Insurance for the Senior Health Insurance Information Program.

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

**9. PURCHASE OF LAND FOR PUMP STATION FOR UTILITIES DEPARTMENT:**

Utilities Director, David Smithson explained the Utilities Department is in the process of purchasing the Newland Water District. Part of the process is to install a pump station and purchase land to put it on. Previously, the Board gave staff the lead way to offer $20,000 to purchase a piece of property for the pump station. The owner has agreed to sell the land for $20,000. Based on the cost-benefit analysis, he recommends purchase of the .13-acre parcel at 1270 Northside Road for $20,000.

 Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Sean Lavin to approve the purchase of a .13-acre parcel at 1270 Northside Road for $20,000 for installation of a pump station. The motion carried unanimously.

**10. NEW POSITION REQUEST – GRANTS COORDINATOR/PURCHASING AGENT:**

County Manager Sparty Hammett said the Board discussed the need for a Grants Coordinator/Purchasing Agent at the Board of Commissioners Retreat. Currently, we do not have the need for two separate positions, but we do have the need for both functions. As a Tier 1 County, we are missing out on grant funding that could aid Pasquotank County operations. In addition, without a Purchasing Agent, purchasing is too decentralized, with the burden falling on Department Directors and the County Managers Office for bids, Requests for Proposals, and Request for Qualifications.

Mr. Hammett said he had planned to request the position in his recommended Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget; however, due to the need to pursue grant funding for the Utilities’ projects approved by the Board and grant funding available in the recently passed American Rescue Act of 2021, it would be prudent to start the hiring process more quickly. If the position is approved in the budget, staff would start the hiring process on July 1st and the new employee would likely start in September. If the Board approves the position tonight, staff would be able to fill the position by July 1st. He recommended approval to establish a Grants Coordinator/Purchasing Agent position at Pay Grade 23, with a salary range of $43,396 to $61,261. He stated that if the position is approved, Human Resources will be moved to the first floor of the courthouse, allowing for this position to be in the Finance Office.

 Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Cecil Perry to approve establishing a Grants Coordinator/Purchasing Agent position, at Pay Grade 23, with a salary range of $43,396 to $61,261. The motion carried unanimously.

**11. REQUEST BY ELIZABETH CITY-PASQUOTANK PUBIC SCHOOLS TO REALLOCATE FUNDS:**

ECPPS Chief Financial Officer, Rachael Haynes explained that ECPPS requests to transfer funds in the amount of $21,462.42 from JC Sawyer Drive project budget ($69,000) to the Sheep-Harney Elementary School Windows Lintel project. The $21,462.42 transfer would bring the total county capital request for this project to $38,786.42. She said this project was not on the original project list, but was an emergency repair. Local Current Expense repair and maintenance funds and remaining funds from other capital projects were requested and approved to begin the work.

Ms. Haynes said it has been determined, the JC Sawyer Drive project (Normal Drive) is a city road and therefore ECPPS will be working with the City on this project. ECPPS requests to have the remaining $47,537 from the JC Sawyer Drive project transferred to the Central Elementary School Drive project to $59,537 from the original $12,000 project amount.

 Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Sean Lavin to approve the request to reallocate $21,462.42 from the JC Sawyer Drive Project to the Sheep Harney Elementary School Windows Lintel project, and $47,537 from the JC Sawyer Drive project to the Central Elementary School Drive Project. The motion carried unanimously.

**12. COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS:**

County Attorney Mike Cox said he received an e-mail from NCACC last week regarding a Senate Bill which would decriminalize non statutory offenses. It gives him real concern as the County Attorney. The General Assembly passed a law two or three years ago requiring local governments in North Carolina to send them every ordinance they have that has criminal penalties. He said the current penalties are not abused, and he would hate to see them removed. Currently, it is used on offenses such as the leash law, which he feels is very affective. He said he would like to see the Board take a stance on the issue.

**13. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Lavin stated that most of his meetings are coming up next week. He said he appreciated the Joint City/County meeting last week, and received a lot of good information. He thought Health Director Battle Betts’ perspective on resetting our posture for the state of emergency was very interesting, and thinks that he made some very valid points. He would like this Board to take action and signal that they are ready to take some action and to come out from under this state of emergency, which would be a symbolic first step in moving the County forward.

Motion was made by Sean Lavin to recommend that the Emergency Management Control Group lift the state of emergency at their next meeting.

County Manager Hammett explained that the state of emergency was put in place at the beginning of the pandemic to make sure the County would be able to get federal funding, which is typically a requirement from FEMA, and in case we wanted to put any additional restrictions in place such as a curfew. At this time, the state of emergency has no restrictions and does not serve a purpose. Staff found out that with COVID, the state of emergency does not have to be in place to receive funding. He said he is working on scheduling a Control Group meeting for next week, and it will be discussed at the meeting.

 Commissioner Lavin rescinded his motion pending outcome of the next control group meeting.

Commissioner Meads agreed that it is time to end the state of emergency and open up businesses. He said he met with Solid Waste Director Brad Gardner for a tour of the landfill, and received a lot of good information. The EMS Board meets next week. He thanked Chairman Griffin for contacting the Department of Transportation about clearing and snagging on Florida Road. Chairman Griffin noted that the job is complete. Commissioner Meads said a lot of farmers will be very thankful.

Commissioner Overman attended the monthly DSS Board meeting. He stated that Dr. Andrea Williams is the current chair of the board. He noted that she has served the board very well, but due to policy she must rotate off that board. He thanked her for what she was able to accomplish on the board. Additionally, he attended the Tourism Development Authority meeting. They were provided with encouraging numbers. He said the Joint City/County meeting was very positive. He and the Perquimans County Manager participated in the COA Foundation Golf Tournament, and he is signed up for the Coast Guard 5k.

Commissioner Perry attended the JCPC meeting. They have been meeting virtually, but are beginning to reorganize. He explained that JCPC is responsible for reviewing the needs of juveniles in the county who are at risk of delinquency or who have been adjudicated undisciplined or delinquent. He also attended the Health Board meeting. Pasquotank County has been very successful in its vaccination clinics. He noted that there has been a lot of effort in the community to achieve that success.

Commissioner Perry asked if there are plans to repair the road behind JC Sawyer Elementary School. Chairman Griffin answered yes, it is a City road and therefore they will work with the school system on getting the road repaired. He also reported that currently there are no open beds for mental health patients in North Carolina.

Vice-Chairman Jordan attended the Economic Development Commission meeting. He also attended the Jail Board meeting. Things are going as well as can be expected at the jail. There have been no COVID outbreaks. He volunteered for the Meals on Wheels delivery program. It was very nice and informative. He attended Judge J.C. Cole’s Retirement Celebration. He noted that weather has permitted work to begin on several projects selected by the Drainage Committee.

Chairman Griffin attended Judge Cole’s Retirement Celebration and presented him a resolution on behalf of the Board in support of his efforts. He said Judge Cole was given the highest honor in North Carolina, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. The City/County meeting went very well. The Economic Development Commission has received 14 applications to fill the director’s position. A local law firm is in the process of screening the applicants and performing background checks. He noted that several vaccines were administered during Meals and Wheels deliveries.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Charles Jordan that the Board enter Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to protect the Attorney-Client Privilege. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon the end of Closed Session;

 Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Sean Lavin that the Board return to Regular Session. The motion carried unanimously.

There being nothing further to come before the Board;

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Cecil Perry to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

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 CHAIRMAN

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CLERK TO THE BOARD