**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA JULY 12, 2021**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, July 12, 2021in Courtroom A 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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jonathan Meads

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

R. Michael Cox, County Attorney

Julie Stamper, GIS Coordinator

Shelley Cox, Planning Director

Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

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

**1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

Vice-Chairman Jordan requested that the agenda be amended to add the following items recommended by the Finance Committee to the Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of Request to Retire Duty Weapon, Badge, and Cell Phone for Retiring Sheriff’s Office Employee; 2) Approval of Offer to Purchase Property Located at 5133 Putter Lane, Kitty Hawk; 3) Approval of Amendment to Wellfield Management Plan and 3D Modeling Study; 4) Approval of Redistricting Meeting Schedule; and 5) Appointment to Boards and Committees.

Motion was made by Charles Jordan, seconded by Barry Overman to amend the agenda to add Items #1-4 to the Consent Agenda, and Item #5 to New Business. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chairman Griffin recognized Molly Jo Penrod, address unknown to address the Board. Ms. Penrod spoke in favor of moving the Confederate Monument. She said it was only erected to intimidate black Americans and to symbolize white supremacy.

Chairman Griffin recognized Linwood Gallop, of 604 Cardwell Street to address the Board. Mr. Gallop spoke in favor of moving the monument. He said it suppresses rights. He feels taxpayers should not pay to move the monument, the new owner should pay the cost.

Chairman Griffin recognized Cheryl Morrison of 710 Harney Street to address the Board. She spoke in opposition of Sheriff’s Office employees receiving raises. She noted that they are not protecting protesters.

Chairman Griffin recognized Jessica Kelly, address unknown to address the Board. Ms. Kelly approves of moving the monument and doesn’t care how it is paid for. She said the racist statute is a heritage to hate.

Chairman Griffin recognized Terri Davis of 639 Shawboro Road to address the Board. Ms. Davis spoke in favor of moving the monument. She said tearing it down does not erase history, and asked why it is still there. She said if the Board does not want to remove it, let “us” remove it.

Chairman Griffin recognized Andrea Rovenski of 1109 Wood Street to address the Board. Ms. Rovenski said $28,000 is not required to move the statute. It could be removed much less costly to the taxpayers. She sees no reason why the County should be paying money to remove the statute that should have been removed 100 years ago. The money should instead be spent on better educate people about why the statute is unacceptable.

Chairman Griffin recognized June Gibbs, address unknown to address the Board. Ms. Gibbs spoke in favor of moving the statute. She hopes that the Board is not changing their minds because of the Black Lives Matter mural.

Chairman Griffin recognized Jim Goar, address unknown, to address the Board. Mr. Goar said the monument is a division that should be moved or else “find out”.

Chairman Griffin recognized Robert Carleton to address the Board. Mr. Carleton stated that he wants the monument moved. He said he does not want it on a road near his house. He believes the $28,000 should be put towards public safety and homelessness.

Chairman Griffin recognized Kirk Rivers of 101 Fairlead Dr. to address the Board. Mr. Rivers thanked the Board for opening up the meetings and hearing from their constituents. He feels this item is only being revisited because of the civil unrest. He hopes that the monument is removed by the end of the month. He said if the County can’t find a place to put the monument, he will apply to receive it.

Chairman Griffin recognized Warren Mercer of 1542-A Mill Pond Road to address the Board. Mr. Mercer supports movement of the monument, but said he is here for a different reason. He requested the County consider a park near Mill Pond Road. He stated that taxation without representation is tyranny.

Chairman Griffin recognized Keith Rivers of P.O. Box 211 to address the Board. Mr. Rivers stated that men cannot experience childbirth, just like whites can’t understand how African Americans feel. He said the County needs to move the monument now. He said African Americans need to be respected as a race, not as individuals. There cannot be healing without justice.

**3. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

*a. Approval of Minutes of June 21, 2021 Commissioner Meeting*

*b. Approval of Amendment to Planning Department Fee Schedule:*

On June 21st, the Board of Commissioners adopted major changes to the County’s Zoning Ordinance in order to be compliant with requirements within NCGS Chapter 160D. As part of those changes, Conditional Use Permits were reclassified as Major Special Use Permits. In order for the adopted fee schedule to be consistent with the Zoning Ordinance, staff proposes to amend the Planning Department Fee Schedule as follows:

~~Conditional Use Permit~~

Major Special Use Permit

Under 100 acres $1,000 (effective 12/17/18)

100 acres and over $1,000 plus $5 per acre (effective 12/17/18)

*$10,000 Maximum fee per application*

*c. Approval of Request to Retire Duty Weapon, Badge, and Cell Phone for Retiring Sheriff’s Office Employee*

The Finance Committee considered a request from Major Aaron Wallio, on behalf of Sheriff Tommy Wooten to retire the duty weapon and badge, and award them to Deputy James Flowers, who is retiring from the Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff’s Office has a policy in place that allows sworn law enforcement officers to receive their badges at no cost and to receive their service side arms, at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners, based on their years of service. Deputy Flowers is retiring with 21 years of service. According to the schedule, retiring officers with more than 20 years of service would receive their weapon at no charge.

Deputy Flowers has also requested that the Board allow him to keep his County issued cellphone and number. The Finance Committee has recommended approving the request to retire the duty weapon and badge and awarding them to Deputy James Flowers according to the Sheriff’s Office’s policy and fee schedule, and to allow him to purchase his County issued cell phone and number for $1.

*d. Offer to Purchase County Property Located at 5133 Putter Lane, Kitty Hawk*

The .46-acre parcel of County property located at 5133 Putter Lane, Kitty Hawk, NC is listed for sale at $250,000. The tax value for the parcel is $144,000 (Dare County’s reevaluation was effective January 1, 2020). The most recent comparable parcel, 5011 Putter Lane, sold for $160,000 on December 18, 2019. We received an offer from Route 168 Portfolio, LLC for $200,000. The Finance Committee has recommend approval of the offer, and to begin the upset bid process.

*e. Wellfield Management Plan and 3D Modeling Study*

In February, the Board approved $125,000 total for a Wellfield Management Plan study for the Weeksville Plant ($50,000) as well as a 3D Modeling Study for the RO wellfields ($75,000).  Utilities Director, David Smithson, met with Groundwater Management Associates in Greenville, and they originally submitted a contract for both projects for a total cost of $118,050. Groundwater Management Associates later, after conferring with Harn R/O Systems, recommended some extra testing on the Weeksville Well Sites. This is preliminary for the project to change the Weeksville Water Plant over to a Nano System that Harn R/O Systems is involved with.  The extra testing will need to be done before the County can complete the change, and it is being done earlier than projected.  The extra testing did increase the Weeksville study to $73,260, with a total cost for both studies now at $135,060; $10,010 more then was approved in February for the two studies. The Finance Committee has recommended moving forward with the studies at a total cost of $135,060.

*f. Approval of Meeting Schedule for 2021 Redistricting Process*

The Finance Committee has recommended approval of the following public meeting schedule for the 2021 Redistricting Process:

* September 13, 2021, Board of Commissioners Meeting – Julie Stamper will provide an overview of the Census data and how it will be used in the Redistricting process;
* October 18, 2021, Special Called Meeting – Board of Commissioners Work Session and Citizen Input into Redistricting Options; and
* November 15, 2021, Board of Commissioners Meeting – Public Hearing on Proposed Redistricting Plan.

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

**4. RELOCATION OF CONFEDERATE MONUMENT:**

County Manager Hammett explained that at the Board of Commissioners meeting on July 13, 2020, the Board approved moving the monument to a nonpublic location and to move the item forward to the Special Projects Committee to find a suitable location and cost. At the June 7, 2021 Special Projects Committee Meeting, the Committee unanimously recommended to the full Board to move the confederate monument to Mr. Warren Weidrick’s property at 1371 Four Forks Road in Nixonton using Superior Cranes at a cost of $28,000 to be paid out of Contingency Funds, and to hold a public hearing associated with the item at the July 12th Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Commissioner Overman explained that as a member of the Special Projects Committee, they deliberated on this in good faith moving forward with the vote they had last July. They have just been waiting for all the logistics to fall in order. He said it is being brought back to tonight’s meeting because they had to. The Board’s action was for it to go to Special Projects for them to work out all the legwork and bring it back to the full Board to accept the setup of where it’s going and the cost.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Charles Jordan to approve moving the confederate monument to Mr. Warren Weidrick’s property at 1371 Four Forks Road in Nixonton using Superior Cranes at a cost of $28,000. The motion carried by a five to one margin, with Commissioner Lavin voting against the motion.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF REDISTRICTING RESOLUTION:**

The Board considered a proposed resolution establishing an open, transparent, and nonpartisan procedure for the 2021 Redistricting Process in Pasquotank County presented by the NC League of Women Voters.

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Charles Jordan to adopt the following resolution establishing an open, transparent, and nonpartisan procedure for the 2021 Redistricting Process in Pasquotank County:

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN OPEN, TRANSPARENT AND NONPARTISAN**

**PROCEDURE FOR THE 2021 REDISTRICTING OF THE**

**PASQUOTANK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**WHEREAS** state statutes require that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners

redraw the Board’s districts following the decennial Census to reflect the current population, and

**WHEREAS** the resulting county redistricting plan will be used to elect members of the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners throughout the coming decade, and

**WHEREAS** the redistricting plans developed should accurately reflect the county’s composition and diversity and strengthen county communities’ representation on the Board of Commissioners, and

**WHEREAS** an open and transparent redistricting process that encourages resident citizen input and incorporates such input into the district maps leads to better community representation, and

**WHEREAS** such a process facilitates public input and involvement in the redistricting process, protects the integrity of neighborhoods and communities, and respects the principles of the Voting Rights Act of 1965,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners commits to establishing an open and transparent redistricting process that will adhere to the principles set out above and will support resident citizen involvement throughout the 2021 redistricting process, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the process adopted should: i) promote accountability and transparency; ii) prohibit the consideration of voting patterns and party registration information and iii) use demographic information only to the extent necessary to ensure minority representation as required by the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners commits to adopting a redistricting process providing for: i) firm timelines announced publicly in advance, ii) prompt public communication of draft plans, iii) timely posting of maps and other information via website and through publication in local news outlets, such as the Daily Advance, iv) well-promoted open public meetings on the maps, and v) resident citizen ability to review proposed maps, submit comments, and propose improvements, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution should be announced publicly as a testament to the Board’s commitment to an open and transparent process that informs and engages the public; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners

encourages the NC General Assembly to adopt procedures for the 2021 legislative and congressional redistricting embodying the above principles, processes, and measures in order to secure our resident citizens’ right to participate fully and effectively in the 2021 redistricting process and to strengthen their representation in these elected bodies.

Adopted the 21st day of July, 2021.

The motion carried unanimously.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE:**

Commissioner Barry Overman reported that the Appointments Committee met today and has made the following recommendations:

* Appoint Colbert Respass and Keith Teague to the Airport Authority. Since these are new appointments, they must lay over until the next meeting.
* Reappoint Thomas Ward to the Elizabeth City Board of Adjustments.

Motion was made by Barry Overman, seconded by Charles Jordan to accept the recommendations from the Appointments Committee to approve the reappointment as presented, with the new appointments to lay over until the next meeting to provide for additional applications. The motion carried unanimously.

**7. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Sterritt stated that he and several other commissioners attended a function at College of the Albemarle for the rededication of the Fenwick-Hollowell Wetland Trail. He had an opportunity to talk about the families whom the trail was named for. He thanked all those involved, and praised County Manager Hammett for his part in the process.

Commissioner Overman attended the DSS Board meeting this morning. He said they are looking forward to reconditioning the Blount House. He represented the Board at the Southern Bank Ribbon Cutting. His grandfather farmed on the property where the bank is located, so it was pretty cool. He attended the Tourism Development Authority Board meeting. The USCG Virtual Marathon was a huge success for its first year. Next year’s event is already being planned. There will be a half marathon, 5k, and a full marathon. He said the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation presentation at the Finance Committee meeting was very informative.

Commissioner Lavin reported that he has attended Workforce Development Committee meetings. The local Workforce Development Board received a $100,000 grant that will be used to reach some more youth in the area. They are partnering with COA to help their outreach efforts. The money will go a long way to preparing young people for new jobs and profitable careers. He said his children recently attended camp at Camp Cale. He praised the facility and the work they do.

Commissioner Perry said he has talked about relocating the monument many times in the past. He thanked the Board for supporting the movement, and he looks forward to doing more things that will make a difference in our community. He thinks today is a day that the Board can applaud themselves. He said he does not mean to come across harsh in any way when he discusses redistricting, but it is something that really needs to be looked at. The way the County is structured is totally against the principles of justice and how we can move forward. He said we need to talk about the past and continue to make progress.

Vice-Chairman Jordan stated that Workforce Development will be providing a special presentation in the near future of the many services they provide. He attended the Trillium Governing Board meeting. Trillium recently starting serving Bladen County, which makes their service area 27 counties. He attended the Drainage Committee meeting. He noted that they are trying to help as many places as possible with the funds they have available. Additionally, he attended the COA ribbon cutting ceremony.

Chairman Griffin attended the COA ribbon cutting, as well as the Fast Charge Station at McDonalds. The Economic Development Commission is seeking a new director. Albemarle Commission is working on how to us the Recovery Act Funding throughout the region. The Aging Program received an additional $800,000 to support the Meals on Wheels Program. The Hospital meeting last month was very positive. Groundbreaking is scheduled for October for the first building.

There being nothing further to come before the Board;

Motion was made by Sean Lavin, seconded by Charles Jordan to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

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CHAIRMAN

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CLERK TO THE BOARD