**PASQUOTANK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2015**

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners met today in a regular meeting on Monday, September 21, 2015 in Courtroom C in the Pasquotank County Courthouse.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joseph S. Winslow, Jr., Chairman

Cecil Perry, Vice-Chairman

Jeff Dixon

Lloyd E. Griffin, III

Dr. William R. Sterritt

Frankie Meads

Bettie J. Parker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Rodney Bunch, County Manager

Lynn Scott, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Winslow called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Commissioner Lloyd Griffin gave the invocation and Commissioner William Sterritt led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**1. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:**

Chairman Winslow asked if there were any amendments to the agenda. Vice-Chairman Cecil Perry requested that the following recommendations from the Finance Committee be added to the consent agenda: 1) Approval of tax releases, refunds, and solid waste fee releases; 2) Approval of budget amendments; 3) Approval to provide $500 from Occupancy Tax Proceeds for financial support for the Great Dismal Swamp 9-Ball Classic; 4) Approval to surplus a 1985 Grumman “Firecat” pumper truck; and 5) Approval to waive $500 in tipping fees for C&D delivered to Pasquotank County Landfill for American Legion Building demolition.

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

**2. COMMENTS FROM GENERAL HAWTHORNE PROCTOR:**

Chairman Winslow recognized and welcomed Hawthorne Proctor, retired US Army, 46th Quartermaster General. Mr. Proctor thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak before them. He asked each Board member to introduce and tell him a little bit about themselves. He handed out challenge coins and explained that the coins are something that the military has been giving out now for about twenty five to thirty years. He said the object is to recognize excellence and recognize people who serve regardless of what they do.

General Proctor stated that he would like to share some of his thoughts on the subject of leadership. He commended the commissioners for leading our county in such difficult and challenging times. He stated that he had the pleasure of serving our country since he was 18 years old. Initially, he said he went into the Air Force because he wanted to fly airplanes, but he was told that he could not see very well and therefore chose to go into the Army. He said who would have thought that he would have had the experiences that he has had during his life, from leading soldiers in peace and in war, to running a $4.5 million a year enterprise, to being a Chief Operating Officer and directing a $25 million operation.

General Proctor stated that he would like to share a few takeaways on the subject of leadership that he has learned during his thirty plus years of service. First of which is selfless service. He said General Creighton Abrams, former Army Chief of Staff in Vietnam once made the statement that the Army is people and what the Army needs, money cannot buy. General Abrams said the Army needs men (women) who see service to the nation as an affair of the heart. Secondly, he said there is a difference between leadership and management. He said people cannot be managed to their deaths so you have to lead them. You must set good examples and be a person of strong character, integrity and accountability. He said he believes organizations should have a mission, a vision, and values.

General Proctor stated that he would like to see governance that is inclusive. He said he thinks that people of color sometimes tend to think that governance is in the church and that is as far as they go. He said he would like to see more people of color become involved. He said you will be surprise what you can do if you don’t care who gets the credit. He asked where else other than America can a black guy out of Lorain, Ohio join the Army at 17-years-old and walk out thirty eight years later as a four-star general or a white private out of Minneapolis, Minnesota become the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He said when we say this is the greatest country, you better believe it. It is up to us to seize the opportunity and too often people who appear to have wealth and privilege really do not have a conscious or character and sometimes our kids tend to gravitate to that. He assured the Board if a teacher called his house and said he had done something wrong, he would not be able to sit down for a week. He said we need to get more people to not worry so much about themselves, but how they can make other people better.

**3. COMMENTS FROM DR. LARRY CARTNER:**

Chairman Winslow recognized and welcomed Dr. Larry Cartner, Superintendent of Elizabeth City - Pasquotank County Public Schools and Barry Overman, Chairman, Elizabeth City – Pasquotank County School Board. Dr. Cartner stated that much of what General Proctor said is applicable to the school system. He said he is here tonight on behalf of approximately 5,750 students and approximately 800 employees. He stated that those 800 employees serve those 5,750 students as selfness servants, noting that it is not a secret that you do not go into education because of the money. He said the people we have representing the schools in Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County are people that are there because of heart and they are representing us well. He asked that whenever you see a teacher please thank them. He said next to God, education is a high calling.

Dr. Cartner reported that they have reorganized their Central Office and it is now called Central Services. He said he views district staff as being service oriented and they exist to serve schools and to make life easier for them. He stated that they have also reorganized their curriculum and instruction group and it is now called Program Services because they are focused on the entire program and not just little pieces of it. The entire program must fit together for all children regardless of ethnicity or zip code. He said they are asking themselves what they are doing to make sure that every child is getting the absolute best opportunity every day.

Dr. Cartner presented lapel pins to the Board and staff and asked that they wear them proudly. He said the only requirement is that when someone asks them what the pin means, they must give them their pin and let him know so he can replace it. He explained that the logo on the pin, 4Q3T is their focus, which is four questions, three things. The 4 questions are: 1) Are we teaching the right things; 2) Are we teaching them the right things; 3) How do you know your students are learning; and 4) What are you doing for those who are not learning; and the 3 answers are: 1) Children, 2) Leadership, and 3) Results. He said we must individualize instruction for every child, because everyone learns differently and some children have greater deficits than others. He explained that the weakest of these children is still going to be a member of our community and we need to make sure that they have every opportunity to learn.

Commissioner Dixon stated that he would like to see more communications between the 2 boards. Dr. Cartner agreed. Commissioner Perry commended Dr. Cartner for teaching each individual child and not just utilizing standardized teaching. Commissioner Griffin asked if the budgeted projects for this year are complete. Dr. Cartner answered they are all either complete or near completion. Commissioner Sterritt stated that he and Commissioner Perry both believe the new weekly teacher/staff recognition awards are a great idea and a moral builder. Chairman Winslow said he has never been more excited than he is today about education in Pasquotank County. He feels it is going to move to new heights with Dr. Cartner’s leadership.

**4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Board considered the following consent agenda:

*a. Approval of Minutes of September 8, 2015 Commissioner Meeting*

*b. Approval of Tax Releases, Refunds and Solid Waste Fee Releases*

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

Tax Releases:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **County** | **City** |
| 1. | Leamond L. Jr. & Corenthina A. Carver | 645.20 |  |

Refunds:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Lauren Midgett Williams |  | 140.30 |

Solid Waste Fee Releases:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Owner’s Name | Parcel ID Number | Reason for Release |
| 1. | Hazel White Heirs | P142-12 | Vacant since 2001 |

*c. Approval of Budget Amendments*

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

Gen Fund/DSS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Decrease | 010.6600.5980.11 | Public Assistance | 25,214.00 |
| Decrease | 010.0800.4986.11 | Indirect Cost – DSS | 25,214.00 |
| Decrease | 011.5310.5480.00 | Indirect Cost | 25,214.00 |
| Decrease | 011.0700.4981.00 | General Fund Transfer | 25,214.00 |

Nixonton/VFD

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Decrease | 010.4347.5500.00 | Capital Outlay | 20,000.00 |
| Increase | 010.4340.5500.00 | Capital Outlay | 20,000.00 |

*d. Approval of Request for Occupancy Tax Funds from Great Dismal Swamp 9-Ball Classic*

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve an appropriation of $500 to Great Dismal Swamp 9-Ball Classic from tourism (occupancy tax) funds. An application for the tourism funds will need to be submitted to the Tourism Development Authority.

*e. Approval to Declare Vehicle as Surplus*

The Finance Committee has recommended that the Board declare a 1985 Grumman “Firecat” pumper truck on a Ford F800 commercial chassis, VIN# 1FDNF85K5VA09107 as surplus so that it can be sold on GovDeals.com. The truck was previously used by the Weeksville VFD.

*f. Waiver of Tipping Fees for American Legion*

The Finance Committee has recommended that the county waive $500 of the $5,044 landfill tipping fees for C&D delivered to the landfill from the American Legion building demolition.

Motion was made by Jeff Dixon, seconded by Cecil Perry to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. APPROVAL OF FAMILY SUBDIVISION REQUEST FS 15-03 BY CYNTHIA WOOTEN TO GIVE A GIFT LOT TO A CHILD**

Staff recommends approval of Family Subdivision Request FS 15-03 by Cynthia C. Wooten. Ms. Wooten is requesting to create a 2 acre gift lot for her son, Donnie L. Wooten, in accordance with Article 5, Section 303 of the Pasquotank County Subdivision Ordinance. A total of 180 feet of road frontage is provided to the parcel off of Dryridge Road. A birth certificate has been provided as documentation that the plat qualifies as a family subdivision and an improvement permit has been issued for a septic system. Staff advises that the request meets the minimum requirements for a family subdivision and recommends approval.

Motion was made by Frankie Meads, seconded by Jeff Dixon to approve Family Subdivision Request FS 15-03 by Cynthia Wooten to give a gift lot to her son. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. REPORT FROM COUNTY MANAGER:**

County Manager Bunch reported that a work session has been scheduled for 3:00 PM on October 5. The purpose of the meeting is to receive a report from Angela Welch, Albemarle Commission Planning Director/RPO Coordinator on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. He said the 2016 Clerk’s Certification Course is full and Mrs. Scott is currently third on their waiting list. He stated that Thursday, September 24th area chairmen, managers, and economic development directors will be meeting with John Chafee of NC East. He reported that the auditors were here last week and completed their field work. He said Chairman Winslow appointed the following committee members to the Stepping Up Initiative Committee: Jerry Parks (District Health Department), Bland Baker (Trillium), Luke Markham (Elizabeth City Police Department), Bill Ward (Pasquotank County Sheriff’s Office), Wayne Jones (Albemarle District Jail), James Cox (Albemarle District Jail), and Tonya Jennings (Probation & Parole). Commissioner Dixon asked that he be informed regarding the outcome of the Stepping Up Initiative meetings because he serves on the N.C. County Commissioners’ Mental Task Force and he can take the information to his next meeting in Raleigh. County Manager Bunch noted that the Solid Waste/Landfill Committee, at their last meeting, discussed hours of operation for the recycling centers during Eastern Standard Time and changing the current policy and rate for accepting C&D from outside Pasquotank and Camden Counties and the committee took action to not change either at this time.

**7. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Sterritt reported that Elizabeth City Downtown, Inc. has hired a new director, Mr. Wade Nichols. He said the Social Services Board recently finished their evaluation of the Social Services Director. He stated that he recently attended the ribbon cutting for the new $650,000 handicapped playground at FunJunktion. He reported that on October 20th the Hope Group will be presenting an individual the Harris Witherspoon Award who has exemplified good community relations. He said if you know someone that you would like to nominate, there are application forms at the WC Witherspoon Library and at City Hall. He reported that Dr. Helen Caldwell has resigned from the Community Relations Committee and Dr. Kurt Hunsberger will be resigning in the near future.

Commissioner Dixon reported that he missed the Solid Waste/Landfill Committee meeting this month because he was attending a Risk Management retreat for the NC County Commissioners Association in Atlantic Beach. At the retreat, they established some goals and strategies, one of which is trying to lower the workman’s compensation premium costs for the members of the pool. He said 60% of the claims are from the jail and law enforcement departments. Another 10% comes from EMS. He said they also received information regarding the Net Learning Webinar, which allows county employees to do online training. He stated that the Board of Directors for the Highway 17 & I44 Initiative will be meeting on Wednesday.

Commissioner Parker reported that she attended an event at Corinth Baptist Church recognizing first responders in conjunction with 9/11. She stated that she and County Manager Bunch recently toured the Albemarle District Jail.

Commissioner Griffin reported that he attended the North Carolina Energy Council Meeting. He expressed his concern that North Carolina permitting agencies were not prepared to review wind energy projects when the Pasquotank/Perquimans County project was submitted.

Vice-Chairman Perry reported that he attended the ribbon cutting for the playground equipment at Fun Junktion, the Solid Waste/Landfill Committee meeting, the Jail Commission meeting, and the ECSU chancellor’s installation.

Commissioner Winslow stated that he had the opportunity to go to Berea Church for their first responders function. He reported that the Jail Commission is negotiating with a potential superintendent for the jail. He noted they had some outstanding people apply.

Motion was made by Lloyd Griffin, seconded by Cecil Perry to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

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CHAIRMAN

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CLERK TO THE BOARD