

- Locals who have lived here for years or all of their lives do not want to be excluded from a future that is dependent on high speed internet for business, education, and entertainment—they are tired and increasingly agitated about being overlooked, left-out, and ignored.
- Camden County provides a local example of how the problem can be managed effectively and in a timely manner

Based on the need and the level of concern among citizens, we urge the Commissioners

1. To become actively engaged in creating a plan to bring high speed, broadband internet to all of Perquimans County, and
 2. To include high speed, broadband internet for all of Perquimans County as an economic development priority
- **Steve Lane, Inteliport:** Mr. Lane has been actively working with this problem and asks to be added to the February and March Agenda to present a formal proposal to the Board. In February, he wants to share their plan and ask for local, state, and federal government support through grant funding.

CLOSED SESSION: CONSULT WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY & CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(3), T. Kyle Jones made a motion to go into Closed Session to consult with attorney regarding acquisition of real property and to approve closed session minutes. The motion was seconded by Charles Woodard and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Closed Session was adjourned and the Regular Meeting reconvened on motion made by Charles Woodard, seconded by Fondella A. Leigh, and unanimously approved by the Board.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION

On motion made by T. Kyle Jones, seconded by Charles Woodard, the Board authorized County Manager Heath and County Attorney High to proceed with the purchase of the building located at 101 ARPDC Street, Hertford, NC currently owned by Trillium. Before the vote, Commissioner Lennon asked if there was going to be any announcement that the County is purchasing this building. His concern is that the general public thinks that, after the Closed Session, nothing is usually handled and they leave. He wants to stay clear of any sense of impropriety and that this is common knowledge. This began a discussion on how to notify the public that there could be an open session after the closed session. Mary Hunnicutt said that she could contact her fellow clerks to see how they handle this type of situation. County Manager Heath said that we could add this statement to the Agenda by the Closed Session item: (After the Closed Session, the Board is subject to return to Open Session and may take action as needed on any items discussed during Closed Session). Chairman Nelson suggested that we could have a Closed Session Report and Potential Action and if there was nothing to report just come out of Closed Session and state that there was nothing to report from Closed Session. Mr. Heath said that, once the deal closes, the County could put out some kind of notice to the public.

On motion made by Alan Lennon, seconded by Charles Woodard, the Board approved the following Budget Amendment No. 10 to cover the purchase of this building:

**BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 10
GENERAL FUND**

CODE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF CODE	AMOUNT	
		INCREASE	DECREASE
10-399-000	Fund Balance Appropriated	250,000	
10-690-970	PORT Building Acquisition	250,000	
EXPLANATION: To amend FY 19/20 budget to purchase the PORT Building.			

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or business to discuss, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. on motion made by Charles Woodard, seconded by T. Kyle Jones.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Clerk to the Board

**WORK SESSION
January 21, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met in a regular Work Session on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Perquimans County Courthouse Annex.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wallace Nelson, Chairman Fondella Leigh, Vice Chair
Joseph W. Hoffler T. Kyle Jones
Alan Lennon Charles Woodard

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Frank Heath, County Manager Mary Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board

After the Chairman called the meeting to order, Commissioner Leigh gave the invocation and the Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance. The following matters were discussed.

PERQUIMANS WELLNESS CENTER

Chairman Nelson discussed the possibility of partnering with someone (like Vidant) to build a wellness center onto the current Recreation Center. He gave some of the background from when the Recreation Center was built until now. As things move forward, he will keep the Board up to date on the progression.

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD RETREAT

County Manager Heath explained that he had requested that the Board members bring their calendars so that we could discuss a date for the Commissioners' Board Retreat. After reviewing their

calendars, it was decided to have it on March 20th starting at noon and going until with a possible break for dinner. It was the consensus of the Board to use Neil Emory of NCACC to facilitate the meeting if he is available. Chairman Nelson asked that, if any of the Commissioners have any long range plans that they would like to discuss, let him or County Manager Heath know so that we can place it on the Agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Commissioner Lennon said that he has a short-range plan that he would like to discuss. At the awards banquet at Inter-County Fire Department, he said that Chief Bobby Swayne expressed a concern that they are having a difficult time to get responders for daylight hours. Because businesses are now moving from a mom and pop store to larger chains, their owners are not as willing to let the first responders off to go to a fire call. Mr. Lennon asked if there was some kind of Resolution that the Board could adopt to show support and encourage people to volunteer and let them know that the Board supports their efforts. He feels that the volunteer fire departments would appreciate this. County Manager Heath asked if Mr. Lennon could provide him with some language to use. Mr. Lennon said that maybe Jonathan Nixon could assist with that better than he could.

Commissioner Hoffler mentioned about the architect coming Thursday to look at the Civil War Monument that is located on the corner of King and Hyde Park Streets to see what he can to do improve it. Commissioner Lennon stated that he would like to be on the February Agenda to update the Board on the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) activities.

Commissioner Leigh reported that Melody Wilkins, Executive Director of Albemarle Commission, submitted her resignation to take another job. They are looking for an Interim Director at this time. She is sure that the Board will be hearing more about this later.

Clerk to the Board, Mary Hunnicutt, reported that she had sent out an e-mail to her ClerkNet regarding the notation of an open session after the closed session. A majority of the responses said that their Agendas are similar to our Agenda when going into a Closed Session. They mentioned that, when they are going into to Closed Session, sometimes the Chairman notifies the public that action may be taken after the Closed Session adjourns. She just wanted to update the Board on what she found out.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Clerk to the Board

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