

- Hoffler understands where his heart is because he feels that every time he goes into Mr. Woodard’s store and his daughter’s pharmacy.
- **Commissioner Lennon:** Mr. Lennon asked if we had an estimated cost to move the monument. At this time, County Manager Heath said that the County does not have a cost associated with relocating this monument. Mr. Lennon said that he does not have any strong feelings either way other than both monuments discussed tonight have historic value and they were placed there for one reason or another. He explained that the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) applied for an African American Cultural Heritage Fund from National Trust & Preservation sometime at the beginning of this year. The amount of the funds that they hope to receive was \$60,000 for the colored monument. He quoted from the grant application about the owner of the property which stated, “the monument was adopted by Perquimans County in 2019 as a Civil War Trail site and is currently maintained by County resources.” At this time, the County has not spent any funds to maintain the monument but has expressed a desire to assist in getting the funding to renovate it to make it part of the Civil War Trail. Until this weekend, he had not even paid attention to the monument on the Courthouse Lawn but that is because it did not affect him like it did others on the Board. He then visited the King Street Monument and read the inscription there and noticed that someone had scribbled graffiti on the bottom of the statue. To him, that is disrespectful. He did notice that it would have looked much nicer should it be on the Courthouse Lawn next to the monument there where the tree used to be and have it made taller and on a marble slab. This will conserve history from both sides. He did not feel that the Civil War was all about slavery from what he had read in history. How do we pick and choose which monument to remove or not to remove. We need to stop looking at people at the color of their skin and it is not limited to the African American. It includes Mexican, Asian, etc.
- **Commissioner Jones:** Mr. Jones discussed the historical nature of the monument. He talked about the song that was sung, Old Folks At Home. He talked about the person that spoke who was a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and a Confederate soldier. The Daughters of the Confederacy raised the money but he does not know of there was any outside money contributed to the monument. It costs \$2,000 and the County paid \$200 and gave them permission to install it on the Courthouse Lawn which does change things since it isn’t private property which Mr. Hoffler alluded to in his comments. He stated that our current Board, except for Commissioner Lennon, consists of individuals that were born and raised in Perquimans County. So this is significant to this decision. He stated that this is a complex issue and he commends the Board for their doing research to know about these monuments and what they stand for. He has several questions. If this monument is relocated, will it make the people more prideful in their community or their country? Where do we draw the line. He said that, even though he was born and raised in Perquimans County, he honestly did not know anything about the monument until about four years ago. If we remove all the monuments and documents of our history, will that stop racism? He differentiates between battle markers and monuments in that they are two different things. Mr. Hoffler stated he does not mind individuals that had ancestors fight in the Civil War. What concerns him is the fact that it is on public property and does not feel it should be there.
- **Commissioner Lennon:** Mr. Lennon asked how much money the County has spent in maintaining the monument. Mr. Heath stated that they had not touched the monument. About four or five years ago, the County put bricks around it like they did for the Veteran’s Monument so that they would look consistent. That cost about \$1,500. Mr. Heath stated that they have noticed that it is beginning to lean but, at this point, the County has spent no funds on the upkeep of the monument.
- **Chairman Nelson:** Mr. Nelson shared his comments to the Board. He talked about an episode of 60 Minutes that aired about a couple of weeks ago. In that episode, Anderson Cooper was interviewed and African American History Professor from the University of Richmond. Mr. Cooper asked the professor if he felt that the monuments should be removed along Monument Avenue in Richmond, Virginia. The professor said that he did not want to see the monuments and statues removed but rather he would like to see them framed in a different context. The professor said that he would like to see the story told as to why the statue or monument was erected. He would like to have the opportunity to talk about the issue and come to an understanding.
- **Commissioner Leigh:** Ms. Leigh added that she was glad that we have opened up the conversation and that we will have other discussions and finally come up with a decision that would unify the community. She was pleased that we were able to have a conversation without arguing and understanding that we are leaders and we need to act accordingly. What works in DC may not work in Perquimans County. We need to work through this together in unity and one purpose. Tonight was the beginning by opening up the discussion. Mr. Lennon concurred that the Board has acted honorably tonight.
- **Commissioner Hoffler:** Stated that we are a good Board and we have discussed the issue. They were elected to represent the people and make the hard, complex decisions. This is the beginning of the process. He talked about the mural on Hertford Hardware where there was a Confederate Flag. It was on private property so nothing could have been done about it. He is now thankful that it is not gone. Commissioner Woodard stated that he agreed with some of the items on that mural could have been offensive but there were other items on that mural that was not. He talked about Catfish Hunter getting up on the scaffolding and signing the baseball. That was removed and cannot be replaced. He felt that was a little thoughtless by covering all the items on the mural. Mr. Hunter was a Perquimans County son and hates that part of history is gone. Perquimans County was proud of him but not proud enough to paint over his signed baseball and picture.

Chairman Nelson thanked the Board for all their comments and feels that it was the consensus of the Board to continue their discussion on this matter.

CHOWAN COUNTY WIND FARM ORDINANCE

Commissioner Lennon stated that he did not get Mary Hunnicutt to add this to the Agenda tonight but he just wanted to mention something about the Chowan County Wind Ordinance. He had read in the paper that Chowan County had revised their Wind Ordinance and was wondering if Perquimans County needed to compare our ordinance to their ordinance to see if there are some things that we may need to change. County Manager Heath will be requesting a copy of the revised ordinance and we will add it for discussion at another Work Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Clerk to the Board

REGULAR MEETING
August 3, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Special Notice for tonight’s meeting: *The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners’ REGULAR MEETING will be held on Monday, August 3, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Perquimans County Library located at 514 S. Church Street, Hertford, NC 27944. Because this is considered an essential meeting, the public will be able to attend but social distancing will be required. In addition, public comments will be made in person or in writing, which need to be provided to the Clerk to the Board prior to 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3, 2020. You may deliver them to her via fax [(252) 426-4034] or e-mail at mhunnicutt@perquimanscountync.gov. If you have any questions, please contact the County Manager’s Office at (252) 426-8484.*

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Monday, August 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Perquimans County Library located at 514 S. Church

Whereas, the economy of each town/county is impacted by business and tourism related activities in the other towns/counties; and

Whereas, because of the proximity of the towns/counties to each other, events that impact businesses in one town/county can result in employment loss or gain of residents in all of the towns/counties; and

Whereas, marketing is essential to the success of the combined economies of all five towns/counties; and

Whereas, the Corona Virus Pandemic has had a significant negative effect on tourism and therefore on the public sector and the private sector in each of the Harbor Towns/Counties and across the region, including a loss in tourism-related tax revenues and businesses that have suffered lost or reduced business, reduced revenues, reduced hours, and had to lay off employees; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The County of Perquimans supports the current proposal of the Harbortowns Project to request an EDA CARES grant to support tourism-based pandemic recovery and resilience efforts to benefit public and private sector economic recovery through a regional marketing and promotion initiative; and

WE AGREE to commit matching funds, not to exceed \$5,000, required by the EDA CARES grant.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman
Perquimans County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

SEAL

Clerk to the Board

COMMISSIONER'S CONCERNS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following commissioner concerns/committee report was given:

➤ **Commissioner Lennon:** Mr. Lennon discussed the changes that Chowan County made to their Wind Energy Facilities Ordinance and whether or not Perquimans County should consider those changes too. After he reviewed the changes, he asked the Board if they felt that we should review our ordinance again. It was the consensus of the Board to allow the members to review and study it more. Matter was tabled.

➤ **Chairman Nelson:** Mr. Nelson discussed the following matters:

✓ **Trillium Advisory Board Meeting / Summary Report**

July 14, 2020

Senate Bill 476

1. State Board of Education is required to adopt a School Based Mental Health Policy that include a Mental Health Training Program and a Suicide Risk Referral Protocol.

2. **Training Program shall include:**

Youth Mental Health
Suicide Prevention
Substance Use
Sexual Abuse Prevention
Sex Trafficking
Dating Violence

Suicide Risk Referral Protocols:

Referral Resources and Procedures for students who are at risk of suicide
Guidelines for identifying students who may be at risk

Trillium's Response to Covid-19

1. Trillium negotiated for a very flexible telehealth policy to enable almost all services to be delivered telephonically or through 2-way real-time, video.
2. All services are no prior authorization required with the exception of inpatient hospitalizations.
3. Rate increase across for our providers
4. Trillium was required to add the Crisis Response Modifier to over 700 contracts, with over 3000 sites in order to allow claims to pass through the system so that providers can be paid.

Naloxone Kits Update

1. Naloxone Kits have been mailed to all 10 counties in the Northern Region. Some kits went directly to EMS or Law Enforcement and some went to County Managers' offices for them to distribute as they see fit.
2. In addition to Naloxone Kits, Trillium is asking counties for other opportunities related to Substance use Prevention and Education that we might make contributions to in the coming year.

Text Messaging Opportunities for Trillium Members

1. Trillium will soon start implementing a program to reach out to our adult members by sending out text messages for those enrollees who have given permission to use their cell phones.
2. Just another way of Trillium communicating important information and links to Trillium Videos.
3. Trillium messages do not require responses from members.
4. Members can stop the messages anytime they choose

Internal Trillium Town hall Meetings

1. Trillium has been having internal Town Hall meetings to give Trillium employees a safe platform in which to express their concerns around recent events concerning racial disparity.
2. As a result of these meetings Trillium has formed several work groups to address racial concerns.

Medicaid Transformation Update

1. Senate Bill 808 is the new standalone bill that directs Medicaid Transformation which was recently signed into law by the governor.
2. The new effective date for the Standard Plan is July 1, 2021 and for the Tailored Plan is July 1.
3. \$50 million goes to the LME/MCO for Behavioral Health and Crisis Emergency services to be spent by 12-31-2020.
4. \$463 million in additional Medicaid funding will come to the LME/MCO's. Not sure how much of that will come to Trillium yet.
5. In a phone call this week, Dave Richard said that although some individuals had already signed up for a Standard Plan, it had been so long, they would give those individuals an opportunity to change their mind. Basically starting over.
6. Since Medicaid Transformation is back on the table, Trillium has been trying to find out when the RFA for the Tailored Plan will be posted, but DHHS has not released that date yet.

State Budget Issues

1. General Assembly economists project that lost revenue due to COVID-19 will cost the State approximately \$4B.
2. The General Assembly still has about \$1B in unspent federal COVID funds that they are hoping to use to help offset that deficit, but so far Congress has not approved such a use.
3. As a result this deficit, The General Assembly has decided to just look at small stand- alone budget bills to address critical issues and defer action on a large State budget at this time.

Safe Schools/Healthy Kids Contest Update

1. \$5000.00 winner
2. Currituck County
Grandy Primary Schools
Shawboro Elementary School
3. Perquimans County
Perquimans High School

✓ **Relocation of the Confederate Monument**

Chairman Nelson explained that the Board held a Work Session to discuss the relocation of the Confederate Monument located on the Courthouse lawn. He wanted to provide an update on the matter:

- He has discussed the legal aspects of the situation with County Attorney High.
- At the Work Session, the cost to relocate the monument was discussed so the County will have to obtain estimates to relocate the monument.
- The Board will need to determine another location for the monument.
- The Board would like to give the public an opportunity to make their comments about relocating the monument.

There being no further comments or reports, Mr. Nelson proceeded with the rest of the meeting.

UPDATES FROM COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Heath presented the following updates:

- **COVID-19 Update:** Mr. Heath provided the updated COVID-19 numbers after 5:00 p.m. today as being 25 active cases and 71 total cases in Perquimans County.
- **Hurricane Isaias Update:** Mr. Heath pulled up the most recent update from the National Weather Service on the location of Hurricane Isaias. It looks like the worst damage in Perquimans County will be from high winds which should be from 4:00 to 7:00 tomorrow morning with gusts up to 50+ mph. They are possibly expecting about two to three inches of rain. The County has declared a State of Emergency effective 6:00 p.m. tonight. The State of Emergency does not have any restrictions as far as evacuations or curfews. We do not have any plans for shelters, especially with COVID-19 which would open more problems. Because of this situation, the County Offices will delay opening until 10:00 a.m. He thanked Jonathan Nixon, Emergency Services Director, and his staff for continuing to monitor this situation.
- **Legislative Goals:** Mr. Heath explained that the Board should have received an e-mail from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) regarding Legislative Goals. They were asking that, if the Board had any Legislative Goals that they wanted to add, please provide it to Mr. Heath of Chairman Nelson. Once the goals are approved, NCACC will forward a copy to all the Commissioners and staff.
- **Planning Board Appointment:** Mr. Heath explained that, in the Consent Agenda, the Board noticed that Brenda Lassiter has served her last term on the Planning Board and does not wish to seek another term. She has served faithfully over many years. This takes effect on October 1, 2020. This is a very important appointment so he asked the Board members to think about individuals that they feel would be willing to serve on this Board.
- **Marine Park Basin:** The bid package is finished and it has been advertised to receive bids. The bid opening will take place on September 3rd.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

County Manager Heath reviewed the following Board appointments:

1. **Board of Adjustments:** We still have one vacancy on the Board of Adjustment and that is for an alternate. Matter tabled till next month.
2. **Planning Board:** County Manager Heath discussed this during his updates so the matter was tabled until the Board could make a recommendation for an appointment.
3. **Recreation Advisory Board:** We have one vacancy on the Recreation Board for the Bethel Township representative. Commissioner Leigh contacted George Long who has provided us with his application for this appointment which was included in the Board’s Agenda Packet. On motion made by Fondella A. Leigh, seconded by T. Kyle Jones, the Board unanimously appointed Mr. Long to the Recreation Advisory Board for a three-year term effective August 1, 2020.
4. **Community Advisory Committee:** Last month, the Board appointed Dr. Anne White to this committee. That leaves three more vacancies. We have others that are supposed to complete their training and will be brought before the Board for appointment once that training is completed. This is provided as an update on these appointments.

GRANT AWARD DOCUMENTATION – GOVERNOR’S CRIME COMMISSION – CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Chairman Nelson recognized Sheriff Shelby White who provided an overview of this grant. He stated that he had applied and has been awarded the State Grant from the Governor’s Crime Commission in the amount of \$13,625 to fund the 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program. On motion made by T. Kyle Jones, seconded by Joseph W. Hoffler, the Board unanimously approved the Chairman and County Staff to sign the required documentation and Budget Amendment No. 2 for the Governor’s Crime Commission for Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2
GENERAL FUND**

CODE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF CODE	AMOUNT	
		INCREASE	DECREASE
10-351-001	Sheriff - Grants	13,625	
10-510-420	Sheriff - Grants	13,625	
EXPLANATION: To amend FY 20/21 budget to include grant funds awarded to the Sheriff’s Department through Governor’s Crime Commission.			

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 4

County Manager Heath explained Budget Amendment No. 4 and recommends that the Board approves. On motion made by Alan Lennon, seconded by Fondella A. Leigh, the Board unanimously approved the following Budget Amendment No. 4:

**BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 4
GENERAL FUND**

CODE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF CODE	AMOUNT	
		INCREASE	DECREASE
10-335-001	CARES Relief	261,289	
10-420-741	CARES Relief	261,289	
EXPLANATION: To amend FY 20/21 budget to include additional CARES Relief funds to assist with COVID-19 Expenses.			

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There following public comments were made:

- **Annette Parr:** Mr. Parr discussed an animal control matter. She stated that on July 14th around 5:00 p.m. she and her husband were riding their bicycles. Suddenly a dog charged at her from 211 Shady Lane and bit her leaving six puncture wounds on her right thigh. The Rescue Squad came and two deputies but no Animal Control officer. An adult son of the owner, who was not home, was on the porch at the time of the incident. He said that the dog must have gotten out of the back door. She chose not to go to the hospital and was treated by the Rescue Squad but was advised to see my doctor the next day. She did and received treatment and a tetanus shot. On Wednesday, her husband went to see the Animal Control officer, Brian Baker, who informed him that he did go see the dog and would place the dog in quarantine. She assumed that it meant that it would have been in a shelter. She also called the owner and was informed that the dog was current on its rabies shots. The next day, she received a call from the Health Department stating that they had no proof that the dog had been vaccinated. Her husband contacted Sheriff White who told him that the dog would be quarantined for 14 days by the responsible owner. Her husband requested that the dog be picked up and taken to the shelter to be observed for the 14-day quarantined period. Mr. White told her husband said that this was the law to leave the animal with the owner. She also requested to the Animal Control officer that the animal be picked up and quarantined at a shelter. He informed her that he was seeing the animal every day and felt that the owner would do the right thing. Shortly before we rode by the house where we passed a young family. Ms. Parr said that she was lucky that she did not fall off my bicycle and get mauled but the four year old with this young family may not have been as lucky if the same thing had happened to the young child with this family. She is very upset that this irresponsible owner incurred no penalty for not having the animal vaccinated. After the quarantine, the only response to the incident was to tell the owner to get the dog vaccinated. Why did they not fine the owner for not having animal vaccinated and not having to pay for the dog to be quarantined in a shelter? She received a \$217 doctor bill plus a pharmacy bill for an antibiotic. Luckily this event was not life changing for me but it could have been for a youngster. She asked the Commissioners to at least consider quarantining the animals that bite at the expense of the owner and establish a fine for any owner that does not keep their animals vaccinations up to date. Chainman Nelson stated that the Board will look into the situation and take whatever action that would be necessary to correct the issue.

- **Fred Yates:** After thanking the Board for allowing him to speak to the Board, he introduced himself as Fred Yates, Mayor and Administrator for the Town of Winfall. The Mayor/Administrator and Winfall Town Council would like to meet with the Commissioners to discuss the dispatch fees, the tax base, etc. He had given a letter to Chairman Nelson requesting a meeting with the Commissioner this month. He asked the Commissioners to provide him with available dates and he would adjust his schedule accordingly. Chairman Nelson will check available dates and let Mayor Yates know.
- **Gilbert Vaughn:** Mr. Vaughn came before the Board to discuss the relocation of the Confederate Statue on the Courthouse lawn. He stated that some of his concerns had already been addressed during the meeting but he wanted to ask the Board for some clarity from the meeting that they held in July. He had read the inscription on the monument and it stated "what they believe". He assumes that "they" were the confederate soldiers but he did not know what "they believe". He said that he thought that the Confederate soldiers were all English American and, since he is African American, he was wondering if some of their (African American) beliefs was include in things that they believe. One thing that he would like to know is that, should it be determined that the statue stays there, does it mean that this Board believes what they believed or not believed. Nothing states anywhere what these individuals believe. It may mean that none of the African American beliefs were considered. His question to this Board is, Does this Board believe what they believe? Commissioner Hoffer, speaking only for himself, assured Mr. Vaughn that leaving the statue there is not what he believes. Mr. Vaughn asked if anyone will ever be able to determine "what they believe". Mr. Hoffer stated that each member of this Board will vote the way he/she feels and Mr. Vaughn will be able to know how each person voted. Chairman Nelson stated that they will do everything that they can to answer his question but it will take time to gather that information. Commissioner Woodard stated that he has a book at home entitled, Black Southerners in Confederate Armies by J.H. Segars & Charles Kelly Barrow, that he might be interested in reading. He said that within that book it shows where a good number of African Americans that fought in the Confederacy. Mr. Vaughn said he would check it out.
- **Quinton Jackson:** Mr. Jackson, representing the Hertford Town Council, came before the Board to discuss the DCI 911 discontinuance. Two years ago, the Town of Hertford asked for a meeting with the Board of Commissioners. The rhetoric that the public is hearing is that the Town of Hertford is unwilling to pay the 911 and the DCI Communication fees. He said that this is totally false. The Town of Hertford simply asked the Commissioners for a meeting which has not taken place yet. The County's discontinuance of the Town of Hertford's DCI 911 Services means that, if a child within the Town of Hertford was kidnapped, it will not go on record. If a car is stolen, the Town of Hertford would not be able to find your car. What bothers him is that no one will have a conversation with the Town of Hertford, but you have the County Manager, the Chairman, that meets with three new members of the Town Council behind closed doors never on record and never include the other two council members. The fact that they were called in before they were sworn in and asked about the 911 fees is unfair. The Hertford Town Council has been trying to do a Resolution for this since 2018. They have asked that every city council meet with the County Board. The problem is that none of the members on the Board of Commissioners lives in the Town of Hertford or Town of Winfall and none of you are double taxed. He agrees with the fact that the towns should pay for these services but he does not agree with the amount and the process on which this is handled. His problem is that no one will talk to them and now their children are in danger by discontinuing the DCI 911 coverage. He feels that this is unfair.
- **Terry Swope:** Mr. Swope came to address the Board about the temperature kiosk. He was curious and would hope that the Commissioners would look into this before they start buying them. Will this fall under HIPPA or will this be law enforcement. From a privacy concern, I heard that it would take temperature and photographs which sounds like HIPPA to him. He asked if that data will be deleted once that person is cleared or will this information be utilized on face recollection software, etc. He does not feel that we should be subject to this sort of thing to enter into county buildings. To make sure everyone is safe is one thing but to keep records of going into the buildings it not cool. He hopes that the Commissioners will look into how that data is going to be deleted once it is determined it is a COVID case or non-COVID case. That is his thought and hopes that the Board will look into this matter.

There being further comments or questions, Chairman Nelson proceeded with the Regular Meeting.

CLOSED SESSION: CONSULT WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING A LEGAL MATTER

Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(3), the Board will need to go into Closed Session to consult with their attorney regarding a legal matter. On motion made by Charles Woodard, seconded by Joseph W. Hoffer, the Board unanimously voted to go into Closed Session.

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

No action was required from the Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or business to discuss, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on motion made by Alan Lennon, seconded by Charles Woodard.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Deputy Clerk to the Board