

Alan Lennon

Charles Woodard

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nelson. Commissioner Jones gave the invocation and the Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Chairman Nelson stated that a copy of the Agenda was at their seats tonight. Charles Woodard made a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Joseph W. Hoffler and unanimously approved by the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Nelson asked if there were any items that the Board wished to remove from the Consent Agenda to discuss. Commissioner Leigh asked about the resignation of the Deputy Director of the Board of Elections and if they had filled that position yet. County Manager Heath said that they have advertised the position but it has not been filled as of today. She said she did not want to remove it but wanted clarification of it. Therefore, the following items were considered to be routine and were unanimously approved on motion made by Alan Lennon, seconded by Joseph W. Hoffler.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Approval of Minutes: August 3, 2020 Regular Meeting, and August 17, 2020 Work Session *(cancelled)*
2. **Tax Refund Approval:**
Morris, Jr., James Ronald ----- \$100.18
 Vehicle was sold. 4-month refund. Account No. 45637636.

3. **Personnel Matters:**

Employee Name	Employee Job Title	Action Required	Grade/Step	New Salary	Effective Date
Brian Pauli	AEMT	Certification	66/2	\$17.13/hr.	08/01/2020
Morris Robbins, Sr.	Part-Time Bailiff	Appointment	n/g	\$14.90/hr.	09/01/2020
Nicole Elliott	Administrative Officer I	Leave without Pay			08/25/2020
Devin Wilder	Deputy Director of the Board of Elections	Resignation			08/21/2020
Terrence Brown	Moved to IMC II	IMC II Completion	63/1	\$30,466	09/01/2020
Samantha Farrar	Moved to IMC II	IMC II Completion	63/1	\$30,466	09/01/2020
Alicia Kim White	Moved to IMC II	IMC II Completion	63/1	\$30,466	09/01/2020

4. **End of Probationary Period & Added to Retirement System**

Employee Name	Employee Job Title	Hire Date	Effective Date
Julie Solesbee	PIO/Grant Manager/AEMT	07/01/2019	07/01/2020
John Downum, Jr.	Athletic Program Supervisor	07/01/2019	07/01/2020
Robert Smith	Water Technician I	07/01/2019	07/01/2020
Amy Ward	Business Personal Property Clerk	07/01/2019	07/01/2020
Terrance Brown	IMC II	09/01/2019	09/01/2020
Elena Radcliff-Howell	Office Assistant III	09/01/2019	09/01/2020
Alicia White	IMC II	09/01/2019	09/01/2020
Alyssa Walters	Paramedic	09/01/2019	09/01/2020
Kristen Myers	Deputy Register of Deeds	09/01/2019	09/01/2020

5. **Budget Amendment:**

**BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 5
GENERAL FUND**

CODE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF CODE	AMOUNT	
		INCREASE	DECREASE
10-348-012	State Grants - Emergency Management	4,100	
10-530-341	Emerg. Mgmt. - Vidant Comm. Grant	4,100	

EXPLANATION: To amend FY 20/21 budget to include additional Vidant Comm.

6. **Resolution – Plat Review Officers:** The following Resolution was unanimously approved by the Board.

**RESOLUTION
PLAT REVIEW OFFICER**

WHEREAS S.L. 1997-309 (S875) made a number of significant changes in the procedures for recording maps and plats; and

WHEREAS NCGS 47-30.2 requires the Board of County Commissioners in each County, by Resolution, to appoint a person or persons to serve as Review Officer(s) to review each plat prior to it being recorded and to certify that it meets the statutory requirements for recording; and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the Perquimans County Board of County Commissioners to insure expeditious review of all maps and plats as required by NCGS 47-30.2; and

WHEREAS Kimberly A. Bray, Primary Review Officer, and Bill Jennings and Wilma Robbins, Alternate Review Officer, all located in the Perquimans County Tax Office, have served and it is the desire of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners that they continue to serve in the capacity of Primary Review Officer and Alternate Review Officers for all Plats/Maps to be recorded in the Perquimans County Register of Deeds' Office since April 25, 2005, and

WHEREAS Frank Heath, County Manager, was appointed Alternate Review Officer on November 7, 2011, and Rhonda Money, GIS Mapper/Planner, was appointed Alternate Review Office on April 3, 2017, and

WHEREAS in order to insure continuous and prompt service to persons or entities seeking review of plats or maps, the Board of Commissioners wishes to authorize Bill Jennings, Tax Administrator, and Wilma Robbins, Tax Clerk, to serve as Alternate Review Officers under NCGS 47-30.2.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, Kimberly A. Bray shall continue to serve as Primary Review Officer and Frank Heath shall continue to serve as Alternate Review Officer for all plats or maps to be recorded in the Perquimans County Registry and that Rhonda Money, GIS Mapper/Planner, Bill Jennings, and Wilma Robbins is hereby appointed to serve as Alternate Review Officers under NCGS 47-30.2, when needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution designating the Review Officer(s) shall be recorded in the Perquimans County Register of Deeds' Office and indexed in the name of the Review Officers.

ADOPTED this the 8th day of September, 2020.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman
Perquimans County Board of Commissioners

ATTESTED:

 Mary P. Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board
 Perquimans County Board of Commissioners

7. **Board Reappointment:** The following reappointment was unanimously approved by the Board:

NAME	BOARD	ACTION	TERM	EFFECTIVE DATE
Knight, Marshall	Board of Adjustments	Reappointment	3 yrs.	10/01/2020

COMMISSIONER'S CONCERNS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following commissioner concerns/committee report was given:

- **Commissioner Woodard:** Mr. Woodard updated the Board on the ALS Resolution and research by NC State. Hopefully, they will find a cure for ALS soon.
- **Chairman Nelson:** Mr. Nelson updated the Board on the request to relocate the Confederate Monument on the Courthouse lawn. Mr. Nelson stated that the Board is still researching items so that they can make a decision on relocating it. Among the items is determining the cost of the relocation, determination of where to relocate it, are we complying with any General Statutes regarding the relocation, and to set up a time for public comments on the relocation of the monument. He also stated that he would like to research if the County could receive some assistance from the State.
- **Commissioner Jones:** Mr. Jones stated that Dwayne Stallings, former Superintendent of Schools, passed away on August 9, 2020. After expressing his appreciation for the work that Dwayne Stallings did for the Perquimans County School System, Mr. Jones asked if the Commissioners wanted something in their Minutes recognizing Mr. Stallings. Chairman Nelson also mentioned the death of Pat Harrell, former School Superintendent, on June 2, 2020. He felt that the Board should also recognize him. With regard to Dwayne Stallings, Mr. Jones stated that his goal was to include something in the Minutes. Mr. Nelson said that he felt the same way about Pat Harrell and stated all his accomplishments in Perquimans County, the State, and COA. He asked the Board what their thoughts were. Commissioner Woodard suggested a letter of appreciation from the Board to their wives. Mr. Heath stated that, in the past (for Emerson Cullins), the Board asked Mary Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board, to send a letter to the family with an excerpt from the Minutes where the Board expressed their appreciation for their service to Perquimans County. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with this letter with except of Minutes to their wives.

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:

- **Marine Basin Bids:** Mr. Heath explained that the County was supposed to open bids for the Maine Basin Project on September 3rd but they have moved it to September 11th in order for the sub-contractors to provide their bids.
- **COVID-19 Update:** The County is continuing to take measures to keep our employees and residents safe from the virus. Currently, Perquimans County has 29 active cases.
- **Recreation Department:** Mr. Heath discussed the reopening of the Recreation Department. With Governor Cooper moving us to Phase 2.5, he felt that the County could begin to open activities in the Recreation Department. He is recommending that we reopen the Recreation Department with small groups of 25 inside and 50 for each outside field. This is the guidance from the State and he is recommending that Perquimans County follow their recommendation. Social distancing will be enforced. Mr. Heath listed what his recommendations were with regard to the number of games per night per sport, coaches wearing masks, etc. There would be no concessions. He really feels that we need to get some activities scheduled. Because of the age of the seniors and their susceptibility to this disease, he still feels that we need to keep the Senior Center closed. We will continue to focus on feeding them by drive thru meals or home delivered meals. When we reach Phase 3, we can look at the Senior Center. Commissioners Woodard and Leigh stated that they had several parents ask them about having no activities for their children. It was the consensus of the Board to follow County Manager's recommendation with the regard to reopening the Recreation Department and keeping the Senior Center closed.

NCACC LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Last month, County Manager Heath mentioned during his Updates that NCACC was beginning to work on their Legislative Goals and asked the Board to think about any legislative goals that they would like to include. We have received an e-mail from NCACC asking that our Legislative Goals be presented to them for consideration by September 30th. Therefore, if the Board has any goals that they wish to include, please provide it to the Chairman or to County Manager before that date.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

County Manager Heath reviewed the following Board appointments and Mary Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board, had provided a Volunteer Application listing for their review in the Agenda Packets:

1. **Board of Adjustments:** We still have one vacancy on the Board of Adjustment and that is for an alternate. Board direction is being requested. No action taken at this time.
2. **Planning Board:** Last month, County Manager Heath asked the Board to think about a replacement for Brenda Lassiter on the Planning Board whose term ends on September 30, 2020. Fondella A. Leigh made a motion to appoint Teresa Blanchard to the Planning Board effective October 1, 2020 for a three-year term to replace Brenda Lassiter. The motion was seconded by T. Kyle Jones. Commissioner Lennon thought that she was serving on a number of Boards. Mary Hunnicutt explained that she currently is serving on the Board of Adjustment but, should she be appointed to the Planning Board, she would have to step down from the Board of Adjustment which was explained to her. Commissioner Woodard said that she had served well on the Social Services Board until her last term ended. Commissioner Jones said that she is very competent to serve and, as Commissioner Leigh stated, she is from Belvidere and Ms. Lassiter was from Belvidere. The motion was unanimously approved. With this approval, we now have two vacancies on the Board of Adjustment, one alternate and one member.

RESOLUTION: EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CIVIC GROUP

County Manager Heath explained that Commissioner Hoffer brought this to the Board and asked him to present it. Commissioner Hoffer explained that he was given this Resolution by Fred Yates, President of the Eastern North Carolina Civic Group. This group includes 23 rural counties in eastern North Carolina. This Resolution is being presented as a result of problems with children being able to access broadband service in rural areas and not being able to enable real time interaction between the student and teacher for a valid Virtual Classroom experience due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. President Yates has asked that this Board join other counties in this group in supporting the accessibility of broadband speed of 25 megabits, as available in urban communities in North Carolina. On motion made by Joseph W. Hoffer, seconded by Alan Lennon, the Board unanimously adopted the

following Resolution supporting their request for 25 megabits broadband service in rural areas of eastern North Carolina:

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CIVIC GROUP RESOLUTION

Whereas, COVID-19 has necessitated full and/or partial closing of public schools throughout 23 counties in eastern NC that include: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Lenoir, Martin, Northampton, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell and Washington; and

Whereas, despite expenditure of millions of dollars spent for broadband, the state of North Carolina has failed to ensure broadband (25 Megabits) to the aforementioned counties; and

Whereas, the Internet in each of the counties is operated on 100 year old copper telephone wires which provide a maximum of 10 megabits, but more often than not, 3-8 megabits or less; and

Whereas, the schools in rural communities in eastern North Carolina, in normal times, are therefore unable to offer quality education equal to students who have access to broadband in urban areas; and

Whereas, COVID-19 has further handicapped the quality of education in the above counties by forcing parents to choose between the health of their children and a mediocre education utilizing so called virtual classrooms which will, in most cases, not work; and

Whereas, the proposed solution for *effective* Virtual Classes requires a constant 25 Megabits with interaction between students and teachers in real time; and

Whereas, any speed below 25 Megabits could result in buffering which is equivalent to the classroom leaving the students; and

Whereas, the state of NC, recognizing this problem, proposes to address the problem with "Hot Spots" which is also an invalid solution because accessibility is only available to students who live close to the Tel-Com providers' wireless towers. (A mobile "hot spot" is basically a cell phone without a speaker.); and

Whereas, the necessity of broadband is not only essential for K-12 education in rural communities during COVID-19, these communities also suffer the lack of broadband (25 Megabits) which is essential for telemedicine and e-commerce; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners supports the counties' request that, in order to enable real time interaction between the class and the teacher for a valid Virtual Classroom experience, the state devise a solution to the above stated problems that are caused by the lack of accessibility to the FCC Standard for broadband speed of 25 megabits, as available in urban communities in North Carolina.

Adopted this the 8th day of September, 2020.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman
Perquimans County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

SEAL

Clerk to the Board

Chairman Nelson stated that expanding the broadband service throughout rural North Carolina was part of the Legislative Goals last year and he feels certain that this will be one again this year. He anticipates that it will be a priority goal this year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following public comment was made:

- **Terry Swopp**: Mr. Swope stated that during Chairman Nelson's comments about the relocation of the Confederate Monument, it was stated that the items the Board was considering was the cost of the relocation, a new relocation site, and how you can relocate it within State Statutes. That would be like a horse and cart thing. The reason this matter was brought up at the July 20th meeting was that some people find it offensive. Again, he stated that he may have misinterpreted what Mr. Nelson said but it almost sounded as though the Board is not looking at removing it because some people find it offensive but we will find a way to work within the confines of a written rule and then use our original reason for relocating the monument. He feels that this would be difficult to defend in court. He had hoped that the County Attorney would have been present to clarify this for him. Chairman Nelson stated that was not what he was saying and thanked him for his comments.

There being further comments or questions, Chairman Nelson proceeded with going into the Closed Session. Because they were going to consult with their attorney and the attorney was not present, Chairman Nelson asked if they needed to proceed with the Closed Session. County Manager Heath stated that we have other items to discuss and that Mr. High had texted him stating that he was delayed by a Council Meeting and provided the information needed for the Closed Session. Mr. Heath could present it to the Board and let Mr. High know how to proceed.

CLOSED SESSION: CONSULT WITH ATTORNEY REGARDING A LEGAL MATTER, DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTER, AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11(3)(4)(5), the Board will need to go into Closed Session to consult with their attorney regarding a legal matter, disposition of property matter, economic development matter, and closed session minute approval. On motion made by T. Kyle Jones, seconded by Fondella A. Leigh, 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 Joseph W. Hoffler, and unanimously approved by the Board.

No action was required from the Closed Session. Because several individuals wanted to speak to the Board tonight but failed to sign up prior to the Closed Session, the Chairman asked the Board what their feelings were. Commissioner Lennon stated that he would be willing to make a motion to allow them to speak their three minutes. The motion was seconded by Joseph W. Hoffler and unanimously approved by the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There following public comments were made:

- **Anna Joyce McPherson**: Ms. McPherson wanted to address the Board about the relocation of the Monument. After reviewing the law Chapter 425 Sections 410 and 810, Ms. McPherson explained to the Board that she was mainly commenting on Section 410. History tells us that many of the rebel soldiers did not own slaves, did not know why they were fighting except they wanted to protect their homes and their state. When they died, many of the soldiers were buried in mass graves so family members did not have anywhere to visit their fallen soldier. That was why many of the monuments were erected by organizations like the Daughters of the Confederacy, Sons of the Confederacy, and the Ladies' Memorial Societies. Because they were not wealthy organizations, they had to raise the funds to erect these monuments. They have been here a long time and have not seemed to bother anybody. Now, all of a sudden, people now find them offensive and now some people want them gone. She feels that these monuments represent people and should remain where they are because it would cost a lot of money to relocate the monument. If you Google, "Why the Confederate Monuments should stay", you will see other reasons as to why these monuments should stay where they are and, some say, why the monuments should be relocated. It will be an eye-opening experience when you read this.

- **John Long:** Mr. Long came before the Board to express his opinion as to why the monument should remain where it is. As Ms. McPherson stated, the mothers, grandmothers, and sisters of these rebel soldiers were just trying to erect a place where they could remember their family members who left their homes to go fight in the war to protect their homes and state and lost their lives fighting. It has been there a long time and has not hurt anybody. He further stated that, before this topic has been brought up, 85% of the county residents did not even know it was there. He stated that Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter has a monument out there and that offends him because he played for the New York Yankees. He said let's go tear that down because it offends him because he does not like the Yankees. He is just saying that the Confederate Monument should stay because it never hurt anyone until the black movement came down and desired that it be removed from the courthouse lawn. He further explained how the black movement has operated. He thinks that it needs to stay where it is and maybe sometime some of the chaos will wind down. He closed his remarks by saying that Red Skelton said that God put us on this earth to build up and not to tear down.

There being no further comments or questions, Chairman Nelson thanked them for their comments and if there was any further business to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Clerk to the Board

* * * * *