

REGULAR MEETING

July 6, 2021

6:55 p.m.

Special Notice for tonight's meeting: The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners' **REGULAR MEETING** will be held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at 6:55 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 Tuesday, July 6, 2021. 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 Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Perquimans County Library located at 514 S. Church Street, Hertford, NC 27944. The meeting was moved from Commissioners Room located on the first floor of the Perquimans County Courthouse Annex.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nelson. Commissioner Leigh gave the invocation and the Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Nelson explained that the first item of business was to hold a public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING

Conveyance of Property to East Coast Steel Fabrication

Chairman Nelson opened the Public Hearing stating that the purpose of this public hearing is to receive citizens' comments public comments on the conveyance of property within the Perquimans County Commerce Center to East Coast Steel Fabrication. Said property is the 10 acres directly adjacent and south-west of the 9.88-acre parcel owned by East Coast Marine Properties as recorded in Deed Book 489, Page 591, Perquimans County Registry. The property to be conveyed has an estimated value of \$100,000 and the consideration paid for the property will be \$100,000. There were fourteen (14) people present. Chairman Nelson made a few comments and asked if anyone had signed up to speak on this subject. Mary Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board, stated that no one had signed up. There being no further questions or comments from the Board or the public, Chairman Nelson closed the public hearing at 6:57 p.m. and proceeded with the regular meeting.

AGENDA

Chairman Nelson stated that a copy of the amended Agenda was at their seats tonight. Joseph W. Hoffer made a motion to approve the Agenda, as amended. The motion was seconded by Charles Woodard 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. There being none, the following items were considered to be routine and were unanimously approved on motion made by Charles Woodard, seconded by Joseph W. Hoffer.

- Approval of Minutes:** June 7, 2021 Regular Meeting, June 21, 2021 Special Called Meeting, and June 21, 2021 Work Session (cancelled) were approved.
- Tax Refund Approvals:**
Monds, Alvah Price----- \$165.98
 Vehicle was sold; 11-month refund. Account No. 47943470
Elliot, Henry Mathew Jr----- \$115.98
 Vehicle was sold; 10-month refund. Account No. 53218415

3. Personnel Matters:

Employee Name	Employee Job Title	Action Required	Grade/Step	New Salary	Effective Date
Tara Fowler	Part-Time/Fill-In EMT	Appointment	63/1	\$15.09/hr.	06/01/2021
Marleny Garcia	Public Information Assistant IV	Appointment	59/1	\$27,368	07/01/2021
Zackery Hudgins	Part-Time/Fill-In AEMT	Appointment	66/1	\$17.22/hr.	06/01/2021
Alyssa Sylvester	IMC I Working Against the IMC II Position	Appointment	61/3	\$31,380	07/01/2021
Jacob Sikes	Certified Deputy	Appointment	65/1	\$35,638	07/01/2021
Dean Pumbo, Jr.	Certified Deputy	Appointment	65/2	\$36,531	07/01/2021
Krystal Dozier-Bass	IMC I Working Against the IMC II Position	Promotion	61/3	\$31,380	07/01/2021
Gary Wayne Jordan	EMS Shift Supervisor (Paramedic)	Promotion	70/2	\$21.89/hr.	07/01/2021
Brian Baker	Full-Time Animal Control Officer	Promotion	62/5	\$34,432	07/01/2021
Andrea Stoner	911 Communications Shift Supervisor I	Promotion	65/3	\$37,421	07/01/2021
Anthony Johnson	Part-Time/Fill-In Certified Telecommunicator	Re-Classification	62/6	\$16.32/hr.	06/12/2021
Jim Grosjean	EMS Compliance Officer	Retirement			06/30/2022
Joe Ann White	Social Worker III	Retirement Rescinded			09/01/2021

4. Step/Merit Increases:

Employee Name	Employee Job Title	Grade/Step	New Salary	Effective Date
Mary Hunnicutt	Secretary/Clerk to the Board/Personnel Officer	65/13	47,761	07/01/2021
Helen L. Hunter	Finance/HR Specialist	61/10	37,237	07/01/2021
Tracy Mathews	Finance Officer	72/13	64,995	07/01/2021
Virgil Parrish	Chief Inspector	71/17	68,574	07/01/2021
Shelton White	Sheriff	76/16	83,422	07/01/2021

Employee Name	Employee Job Title	Grade/ Step	New Salary	Effective Date
Howard Williams	Director	70/11	56,684	07/01/2021
Angela Jordan	Social Work Supervisor III	73/6	57,274	07/01/2021
Tiara Riddick-Hinton	IMC III	65/4	38,358	07/01/2021
Julie Solesbee	PIO/Grant Manager/AEMT	67/8	46,180	07/01/2021
Kathryn Thomas	EMS Shift Supervisor (Paramedic)	70/5	48,966	07/01/2021
Sharon Cooper	Secretary	61/2	30,633	07/01/2021
John Downum, Jr.	Athletic Program Supervisor	64/2	34,956	07/01/2021
Ray Fesperman, Jr.	Sergeant	67/8	46,180	07/01/2021
Kendall Harrell	Sergeant	67/10	48,488	07/01/2021
Quinton Jordan, Jr.	Deputy Sheriff	65/11	45,487	07/01/2021
Thomas Reid	Chief Deputy	70/6	50,190	07/01/2021
Kimberly A. Bray	Assistant Tax Administrator	66/8	44,192	07/01/2021
Tracy Hunter	Technician II	60/8	33,937	07/01/2021
Kathy Matthews	Water Clerk	61/11	38,143	07/01/2021
Robert Smith	Technician I	58/2	26,845	07/01/2021
Bea Spaeth	Fill-In Water Department	64/2	16.81	07/01/2021
Arnold White	Backhoe Operator	65/11	45,487	07/01/2021

5. Budget Amendment:

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1
ARPA FUNDS

CODE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF CODE	AMOUNT	
		INCREASE	DECREASE
62-329-000	Investment Earning	5,000	
62-348-000	ARPA Funds	1,307,515	
62-500-720	ARPA Funds	1,312,515	
EXPLANATION: To amend FY 21/22 budget to include ARPA Funds received (ARPA = American Rescue Plan Act).			

6. Enclosures: The following miscellaneous documents were approved by the Board:

- a. **Senior Nutrition Contract:** This contract is between Perquimans County and Albemarle Commission to handle the Senior Nutrition Program at the Senior Center. The cost is \$12,097.89 for 999 for FY 2021-2022.
- b. **Register of Deeds Notice Regarding Recording Hours:** The Board approved the following notice adjusting the Register of Deeds' hours for recording:

NOTICE REGARDING RECORDING HOURS

Pursuant to House Bill 314, effective August 1, 2021, the Register of Deeds office will no longer end recordings before 5:00 PM. The office of the Register of Deeds shall be open for business Monday through Friday except for official State holidays, emergencies, exigent circumstances or inclement weather. Instruments and documents presented in due form shall be accepted for recording during office hours.

Jacqueline S. Frierson, Register of Deeds

- c. **Home & Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Contract:** The County has been approved to receive funds from the Home & Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG). The Board unanimously authorized the Chair and County Staff to sign the required documentation to receive these funds.
- d. **Economic Development Consultant Contract:** With the FY 2021-2022 Budget, the Board approved the contract between Perquimans County and Dave Goss to handle economic development matters on a month-to-month basis.

TAMERON KUGLER, CURRITUCK TRAVEL & TOURISM DIRECTOR

Chairman Nelson introduced Ms. Kugler who gave a presentation on the African American Experience of Northeast North Carolina. She explained that it is a digital tour of the African American Heritage & History Trail. Our Colored Soldiers' monument is one stop along this trail. After her presentation, she asked if there were any questions or comments. The following matters were discussed:

- **Commissioner Hoffler:** Mr. Hoffler thanked Ms. Kugler for her committee and their efforts to make the world more aware of the African American Heritage in Northeast North Carolina. Ms. Kugler thanked him for his comments and said that they are looking for a couple of commissioners from each county to serve on their committee.
- **Commissioner Leigh:** Ms. Leigh asked about the Cartwright Memorial located in Dare County. Ms. Kugler responded to her question.

There being no further questions or comments from the Board, Chairman Nelson explained that Ms. Kugler had requested that the Board adopt a Resolution supporting their efforts. A copy of that Resolution was included in their packets. On motion made by Alan Lennon, seconded by Fondella A. Leigh, the Board unanimously approved the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR PERQUIMANS COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA IN SUPPORT OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE OF
NORTHEASTERN NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, The African American Experience of NENC is a six county initiative encompassing Northeastern North Carolina and includes Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Pasquotank and Perquimans, and

WHEREAS, the African American Experience celebrates the contribution of African Americans and, encourages a deeper understanding of the significance of the region's cultural heritage and

WHEREAS, the African American Experience will work to build more inclusive communities and

WHEREAS, the African American Experience will inspire exploration and appreciation of African American experience and

WHEREAS, the African American Experience will ultimately drive cultural tourism and economic impact

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for Perquimans County, North Carolina that:

- Section 1. It expresses its sincere support for the African American Experience and extends its best wishes for its endeavors.
- Section 2. This resolution is effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED the 6th day of July, 2021.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman
Perquimans County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Mary Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board

(COUNTY SEAL)

COMMISSIONER'S CONCERNS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no commissioner's concerns/committee reports given.

UPDATES FROM COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Heath presented the following updates:

- **Perquimans County's Boy's Baseball Team:** Mr. Heath congratulated the Perquimans County High School Baseball Team for winning the NCHSAA State Championship. He said that he hoped to do something special for the team later on in the year.
- **Joint Planning Work Session:** Mr. Heath reminded the Board about the joint Work Session with the Planning Board on July 13th to review the proposed 160D planning changes.
- **Monument to the Confederate Dead Committee Meeting:** Mr. Heath had forwarded a memo to the Board giving them a breakdown of the Committee's Work Sessions. He said that the Board will now proceed with the monument Public Hearing on August 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The location will be determined later.

BOARD APPOINTMENT: TRILLIUM NORTHERN REGION ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman Nelson explained that the Board needed to appoint a replacement for Freida Bonner for the Trillium Northern Region Advisory Board. No action was taken at this time.

CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO EAST COAST STEEL FABRICATION

Chairman Nelson explained that the Board held a public hearing earlier in the meeting to receive public comments on this conveyance of a 10-acre parcel to East Coast Marine Properties for \$100,000. On motion made by Charles Woodard, seconded by Alan Lennon, the Board unanimously authorized County Manager Heath to proceed with the sale of the 10-acre parcel to East Coast Marine Properties for \$100,000.

VOTING DELEGATE TO NCACC'S 114TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE – AUGUST 12-14, 2021

The NCACC Annual Conference will be held on August 12-14, 2021. Currently, Wallace Nelson, Joseph Hoffer, and Charles Woodard are planning on attending the Conference. On motion made by Joseph W. Hoffer, seconded by Charles Woodard, the Board unanimously approved Wallace Nelson as their Voting Delegate. On motion made by Alan Lennon, seconded by Joseph W. Hoffer, the Board unanimously appointed Charles Woodard as the Alternate Delegate.

SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

County Manager Heath reported that we received the following bids for these surplus vehicles:

BUYER	ITEM	DATE SURPLUSED	START BID	SOLD AMOUNT
Scott Penner	2014 Dodge Durango VIN 1C4RDJFG1EC391140	6/7/2021	\$500	\$5,006.25
Laurie Strange	2004 Pontiac Grand Prix VIN 2G2WR544041334358	6/7/2021	\$500	\$815.62
Henry Brown	2002 Infinity VIN JNKDA31A52T029209	6/7/2021	\$500	\$562.50

On motion made by Alan Lennon, seconded by Charles Woodard, the Board unanimously approved to proceed with the sale of these vehicles.

DONATION FROM ELIZABETH CITY PASQUOTANK SCHOOLS

County Manager Heath explained that the Pasquotank Elizabeth City school system has transferred the title to a bus to Perquimans County EMS for their Mobile Command Center at a cost of \$35.00. On motion made by Charles Woodard, seconded by Joseph W. Hoffer, the Board unanimously accepted the property on behalf of Perquimans County EMS.

RELOCATION OF THE COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

Chairman Nelson explained that having our Board meetings in the Library Community Room has been beneficial to County business as it is a much nicer, larger space. The Board has had several discussions regarding making this location our permanent meeting spot. With the expansion of the Sheriff's duties, it has become necessary to examine the possibility of turning the current Commissioners Room in the Annex into the main entrance desk/lobby/administrative area. On motion made by Alan Lennon, seconded by Fondella A. Leigh, the Board adopted the following Resolution relocating the Commissioner meetings to the Meeting Room at the Perquimans County Library:

**RESOLUTION
FOR CHANGING THE LOCATION OF MEETINGS FOR THE
PERQUIMANS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room located in the Perquimans County Courthouse Annex Building in Hertford, North Carolina, 7:00 P.M. on the first Monday each month (Regular Meeting) and at 7:00 P.M. on the third Monday of each month (Work Session); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to change this location pursuant to authorization of G. S. §153A-40, and to give notice as required by said statute;

IT IS, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, by action of the Board of Commissioners on the date set forth below, that, beginning with the month of August, 2021, the regular meetings of the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners shall be held in the Meeting Room of the Perquimans County Library located at 514 S. Church Street, Hertford, NC 27944 at 7:00 P.M. on the first Monday and third Monday of each month unless the Monday is a holiday and then it will be on the following Tuesday at 7:00 P.M.;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners reserves the right to schedule public hearings and public concerns on such dates and at such times as the Board may deem appropriate, provided that such scheduling complies with the requirements of the North Carolina Open Meetings Law;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be posted on the bulletin board located in the foyer of the Courthouse at 128 N. Church Street, and on the door of the Commissioners' Meeting Room at 110 N. Church Street at least ten (10) days before the first meeting to which it applies, and that a copy of this Resolution shall be published on the County's website and Facebook page.

Adopted this the 6th day of July, 2021.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman
Perquimans County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Mary P. Hunnicutt
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA FUNDS)

County Manager Heath explained that the Board needs to formally accept the receipt of the ARPA funds per federal grant requirements. The County has already received \$1.3 million of the \$2.6 million total that we are due to receive. He further explained that the County Manager will be designated as the agent to facilitate the use of these funds. He has not budgeted the funds yet because we still need some clarifications on how the money can be used. On motion made by T. Kyle Jones, seconded by Fondella A. Leigh, the Board unanimously formally accepted the ARPA funds that we have already received and the funds that we are due to receive.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following public comments were made:

- **Rod Bowman:** Mr. Bowman came before the Board tonight as a resident of Perquimans County to discuss the Monument. He just moved here about five years ago. He is formally a US Army Officer and the father of a dead soldier. He talked about his son and how he died serving this country. He buried his son in Ohio and is fortunate enough to have a place to go visit he son. He understands that the monument has many feelings toward it but we need to remember why this monument was erected. Many of the Confederate soldiers did not return home and there was no place for their families to visit them. He said that one day the Vietnam Memorial may be torn down because it is offensive to someone. We just never know what the future holds. He asked the Board to consider this when they make the decision about the monument.
- **Pete Perry:** Mr. Perry read the following letter to the County Board of Commissioners:
 To the County Board of Commissioners
 Mr. Wallace Nelson, Chairman
Subject: Soldiers Memorial of 1865
 We the undersigned in this letter wish to present a petition from the residents of this county.
 The petition will be presented at the August 2nd meeting of this Board. For this, we request a scheduled appointment.
 If you would approve an appointment, it would be much appreciated.
 Mr. Perry said that this petition was signed by many residents of the County and would appreciate the Board allowing them more than three minutes to speak.
- **Terry Swope:** Mr. Swope read the following statement:

My name is Terry Swope and I live in Perquimans County. I attended all of the Work Group sessions concerning the Monument to Confederate War Dead in their entirety.

While never expressed by the facilitator nor Mr. Heath, the Work Group did spend all four sessions working towards a goal of "Doing something" about the Monument. Ideas flew to and fro and ranged from destroy it or to move it or to join with other monuments, but it was never actually discussed about leaving it as is, where it is.

To my recollection, on the **very first day** they were doing a round about brain storm, with ideas coming fast from around the table. As People ran out of ideas rather quickly, one member simply shrugged and said "We could do nothing" and then a couple other ideas came about. That was it for all four sessions.

Never again was "Leave it alone" presented or discussed. The Group seemed to feel as though they were obligated to recommend "Doing something". I feel this is not necessary. I also feel the Group never took the time to even consider leaving it alone as they erroneously felt they were charged with a need to do something to it, and to do nothing isn't viewed as doing something.

Several members of the Work Group expressed how moving the Monument would not change anything in race relations, yet still all of them pressed on to change it somehow. It's as though, "We can make changes to stone, but nothing good will actually come about by those changes, we just should do something though for the sake of doing something."

I ask "Why?" The vast majority of people in this County do not seem to want a change. Even those charged with this task do not believe this will heal any wounds, perceived or real. Then why do anything? Why are we stirring a pot instead of actually solving problems?

Terry

- **Danny Privott:** Mr. Privott is also a resident of Perquimans County and had attended the Monument Committee meetings. He agrees with Mr. Swope but the one thing that stands out in his mind came from the first meeting. The attorney stated that it was against the law to move or deface a monument. He believes that if it is against the law then it is against the law and we should not do anything to the monument. He said that was all of his statement. He read a letter that Mr. Madre asked him to read into the record. It is as follows:



United Daughters of the Confederacy® North Carolina Division, Inc.

Sara N. Powell, President
9701 Fonville Road
Wake Forest, NC 27587
919-604-5759
ncpres@ncudc.org

Mr. Wallace Nelson
Perquimans County Manager

Re: Perquimans County Confederate Monument
Dear Mr. Nelson:

This letter is related to the Perquimans County Confederate Monument. The North Carolina Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy believe that we as Americans, and in particular, North Carolinians, have a duty to preserve the history of our nation and of our state.

There is pending litigation brought forth by the North Carolina Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc. ("NC SCV") and the William F. Martin Camp 1521 Sons of Confederate Veterans ("Camp 1521") related to the application of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 100-2.1 ("Monument Protection Act"). This relates to the Vance Monument in the city of Asheville. As you may be aware, on June 4, 2021, the North Carolina Court of Appeals stayed any action by the City and Buncombe County that would further demolish, destroy or cause the removal of the Vance Monument from Pak Square Park in downtown Asheville. This is true as the Court of Appeals recognizes that the question of whether the Monument Protection Act applies to political subdivisions of the state of North Carolina is in a state of flux.

We understand there are those who believe that the monument protection law does not apply to property owned by a political sub-division of the state of North Carolina, we like the NC Sons of Confederate Veterans, believe that such opinion is at odds with state law, and is certainly cast in doubt by the action of the Court of Appeals. Thus, our goal is to not only follow state law, but to ensure that the Monument Protection Act is enforced.

The Perquimans County Confederate Monument was a gift from our organization in 1912. Please understand that this monument in essence is a headstone to those buried in mass graves or unknown resting places on battlefields in North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and elsewhere.

In light of this, we respectfully request that Perquimans County consider our proposal to preserve some semblance of the status quo due to the NC SCV's pending litigation. Also, if it is determined by the North Carolina Supreme Court or the North Carolina Court of Appeals, that the Monument Protection Act does not apply, our position will likely be more accommodating at that time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sara N. Powell
President, North Carolina Division
United Daughters of the Confederacy

Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set.
— Proverbs 22:28

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or business to discuss, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on motion made by Charles Woodard, seconded by Fondella A. Leigh.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Clerk to the Board
