April 18, 2022 continued

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bulkhead during the meet. A timing system and spectator seating would be needed. Ideally there would be the ability to raise and lower walls so that the pool could be open to the air in the summer increasing the desirability of using the pool.

The help fund the cost of running the pool, commercial swim clubs, counties other than ours would pay a fee. Perquimans County residents would pay a fee based on income with some not paying a fee at all. Visitors outside the county would pay a higher fee. Mr. Heath researched how to fund the building of the pool. The last estimate, I believe in 2017, was around \$7 million with a yearly cost to run the pool of \$100,000. Partners such as Vidant or Edenton/Chowan County, may be approached to help with funding. A tax increase or a bond would be likely.

So, put on your thinking caps everyone and make an indoor swimming pool a reality and yet another reason that Perquimans County is a wonderful place to live.

Kim Brinn: Ms. Brinn also gave the Board a written copy of the following comments regarding the Perquimans County Museum: Dear Mr. Heath. Ms. Hunnicutt and Commissioners.

I would like to express my thanks for making our new museum a reality! There is so much to look forward to in the years ahead as the museum continues to grow. Tim and I worked our first shifts at the museum this week and have some thoughts for the future I would like to suggest to all of you to consider as you head into your retreat. The first item to consider is hiring a museum curator on a contract basis, someone to actually manage the museum, at least part time. They would be in charge of merchandise acquiring items, coordinating Children's programs, maybe private events at the museum which could be rented, expanding the use of the area behind the building for programs like an (pretend) archeological dig to name a few responsibilities. One of our new town residents, Cheri Sheridan, has already spoken to Stacy about setting up living history programs for children which is what she did for her graduate degree work for her Master's in Education. A museum curator owould also oversee the volunteer list and potentially handle a new formed "Friends of the Museum" group. Membership monies would help to buy items for the museum. When the Catfish Hunter Museum was in the Chamber of Commerce building they saw over 5000 visitors a year. Our TDA records indicate that tourism in Perquimans County is up 148% and we still have 4 months to go in the fiscal year!

My second suggestion is to look into moving the inspections and planners to possibly a building in Winfall that is currently for sale for \$169,000 according to Zillow. The address is 333 Winfall Blvd and is the old brick medical office building. The museum could then expand to use the entire building. It is very important for the museum to be centrally located in town. Part of your retreat is likely strategic planning and the location of county offices, courthouse and law enforcement may be something you will be discussing.

Lastly, on one of the Perquimans County web sites I read there were two goals that I am particularly interested in and would like the county to increase their investment in accomplishing these goals. The first is the development of downtown Hertford, our county seat. With the change in leadership for the town, I think the county is now headed in that direction. The second goal is tourism. I believe in the saying that you have to spend money to make money and making our tourism director a full time position, even if she is still only a contractor, would be a wise investment in the county's future. Stacey Layden has so many wonderful ideas combined with her degree in marketing that can move us forward. She already invest 40-50 hours/week in the past few weeks alone and has a love for Perquimans County that I am confident she will be able to share throughout North Carolina and Virginia.

Thank you for all of your support, Kim Brinn, 210 North Front Street, Hertford, NC 27944

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or business to discuss, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. on motion made by Charles Woodard, seconded by Joseph W. Hoffler.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Clerk to the Board

BOADD OF COMMISSIONEDS

JOINT WORK SESSION WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 18, 2022 6:30 p.m.

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met in a Joint Work Session with the Perquimans County Board of Education on Monday, April 18, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Perquimans County Board of Education Central Office located at 411 Edenton Road Street, Hertford, NC 27944.

BOARD OF COMMISSION	ERS:		
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Wallace Nelson, Chairman Joseph W. Hoffler Charles Woodard	Fondella Leigh, Vice Chair Thelma Finch-Copeland	
MEMBERS ABSENT:	T. Kyle Jones		
BOARD OF EDUCATION:			
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Anne White, Chair Russell Lassiter Vice Chair Leary Winslow	Amy Spaugh, Matthew Peeler Arlene Yates	
MEMBERS ABSENT:	None		
OTHERS PRESENT			
<u>County Staff</u> Frank Heath, County Manager Tracy Mathews, County Finance Officer		Mary Hunnicutt, Clerk to the Board	
Board of Education Staff Tanya Turner, Superintendent Rube Blanchard, Chief Finance Officer Mary Kaye Peele, Administrative Assistant		James Bunch, Assistant Superintendent Jamie Johnson, Director of Maintenance Michelle Maddox, Chief Human Resources Officer	

Board of Education Chair Anne White called the meeting to order. Arlene Yates led the pledge and gave the invocation. Dr. White asked for a motion to approve their Agenda. On motion made by Matthew Peeler, seconded by Russell Lassiter, the Agenda for tonight's meeting was unanimously approved by the Board. After approving the Agenda, Dr. White welcomed everyone and made a few remarks. Dr. White then introduced Tanya Turner, School Superintendent.

SCHOOL FUNDING: 2021-2022

Ms. Turner made a few opening remarks and then asked James Bunch, Assistant Superintendent, to review the process for applying for ESSER (COVID) funds. After explaining the application process. Mr. Bunch provided a summary of the ESSER grant funds received and how they plan to spend those funds.

Ms. Turner explained that the state and federal government would check to make sure that the expenditures would match up with what they placed on their application.

Mr. Blanchard presented the following 2021-2022 Capital Outlay Funding Sources:

\$235,000	County Appropriation
\$240,000	¹ / ₂ -Cent Sales Tax (Estimated)
\$137,011	Carry Over Projects
<u>\$612.011</u>	Total

Mr. Blanchard asked Jamie Johnson, Director of Maintenance, to review the capital outlay projects for FY 2021-2022. Once Mr. Johnson completed that list, he presented the Current Expense Requests for FY 2022-2023.

After Mr. Johnson explained the current capital outlay requests, Mr. Blanchard provided the FY 2022-2023 Total Capital Outlay Request as follows:

County appropriation	\$235,000	Capital Outlay request
Sales Tax Revenue (30% of ½)	\$240,000	Capital Outlay request
Sales Tax Revenue (30% of 1/2) additional based on CY	\$ 60,000	
Sales Tax Refund (estimated)	<u>\$ 2.398</u>	
Total Capital Outlay Request	<u>\$537,387</u>	
Projected Expenditures:		
Priority 1:	\$395,000	
Technology 1:1 initiative	\$142,387	
Total Capital Outlay Request	<u>\$537,387</u>	

Mr. Blanchard provided some school statistics including ADM, proposed 2022-2023 Budget, Local Revenues, Historical Fund Balance Report, Expenditures Which Impact Our Local Budget, and Expenditures Impacting Local Budget.

After explaining items that will be affecting the local budget, Mr. Blanchard presented the following 2022-2023 Local Current Expense Request:

2021-2022 County Appropriation Fines & Forfeitures	\$3,000,000 120,000		
	Total Revenue		\$3,120,000
Regular Budgeted Expenditures		\$3,120,000	
Additional Expenditures:			
Local Cost of increase in Health Insurance (\$7,019 to \$7,460)		27,318	
Local cost of increase in retirement rate (22.89% to 24.19%)		47,373	
Local costs of 2.5% state mandated salary increases		114,681	
Position – Media Coordinator AT PCHS		73,380	
Position – English Teacher at PCHS		73,380	
Position - Maintenance Position that was RIF'd		53,604	
10% increase in utility cost (electric, etc.)		56,800	
Step increase on applicable salary schedules (all classified staff)		63,681	
Step increase on applicable salary schedules (directors)		13,651	
		523,868	
	Total Expenses		\$3,643,868
Additional appropriated request			523,868
TOTAL LOCAL COUNTY APPROPRIATION REQUESTED			\$3,523,868

**possibility of additional funding needed pending further information received on the low-wealth funding and Safety grants. The "Additional" items could total approximately \$249,5331

Tanya Turner explained why they are adding the two positions, Media Coordinator & English Teacher. Jamie Johnson explained why they are adding the one maintenance position, which was deleted when they had a reduction in force several years ago. Michelle Maddox explained the two-step increase on applicable salary schedules. Mr. Blanchard explained that the total of these additional appropriated requests were \$523,868 making a total local county appropriation request amount to be \$3,523,868. County Manager Heath stated that he found it interesting that the biggest chuck of the additional expenditures is the unfunded 2.5% state mandated salary increases of \$114,681. He asked Mr. Blanchard if they had breakdown of this \$114,681 that could be sent to our legislators to show that again a state mandated increase is being pushed to the local government. Ms. Turner said that she had shared that same concern when she recently attended a meeting in Raleigh. Mr. Heath said that this \$114,681 equals to about \$.01 on the tax rate. Ms. Turner explained more on how they determined these figures. Mr. Johnson said that he would like to thank the commissioners for assisting with the capital outlay expenditures over the ESSR funds. He and his whole department appreciates it. Commissioner Hoffler asked about the future of a Shirley Wiggins Track, which has been discussed for several years. Mr. Heath that this was covered under the ESSR funds. Ms. Turner said that the figure from the ESSR funds would not cover everything that they need. They will need about \$400,000 to \$500,000 more to complete the entire project. She stated that it would be nice to have some fundraisers to get those funds. Mr. Bunch stated that he would have loved to have included those items in the application for ESSR funds but could not include them. They are thankful that they received the funds for the track. Mr. Winslow asked Mr. Hoffler about the fund raising efforts from years past. Mr. Hoffler was not aware of that. Mr. Winslow stated that they went back and saw where Mr. & Mrs. Hoffler met with the Board of Education requesting that the track be named after Shirley Wiggins and that they would work on fund raising for it. Mr. Hoffler said that somehow, the word got out that there was not going to be a track and that is why the fund raising stopped. They will try to see about getting it started again. Mr. Johnson explained where they stand now with the building of the track. County Manager Heath asked if the Capital Outlay prioritized needs were in priority order or just randomly listed. He knows that we have to do the Technology 1:1 initiative but did not know what the priority listing would be for the balance of the needs. Mr. Blanchard and Ms. Turner answered his question. Board of Commissioners Chairman Wallace Nelson made a few comments and asked some questions about the Three Rivers Charter School closing and what happens to the money that they were getting. Mr. Blanchard and Dr. White answered his question. Russell Lassiter made a few comments stating that they are taking into consideration the County's finances and appreciates the support that the County does provide the Perquimans County School System. Mr. Peeler also made comments about creating an environment to encourage people to move to Perquimans County and show them that there is a partnership between the School System and the County. Dr. White thanked the Board of Commissioners and look forward to a great year.

CLOSING REMARKS AND QUESTIONS

Dr. White thanked Ms. Turner, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Blanchard for their fine job presenting the Board of Education's budget requests for FY 2022-2023. Chairman Nelson thanked the Board of Education for their transparency tonight. This makes things better between the School System and the Board of Commissioners. Dr. White agreed with Mr. Nelson.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or comments, Dr. White thanked the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners for coming tonight and adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Clerk to the Board