

**BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES OF THE  
PAMLICO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2019**

The Pamlico County Board of Commissioners met for a budget workshop on Monday, April 22, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Patsy H. Sadler Room of the Pamlico County Courthouse. All Commissioners were present. Also present were County Manager Tim Buck, Finance Officer Bill Fentress, and Clerk to the Board Courtney L. Norfleet.

Chairman Paul Delamar called the meeting to order.

On a motion made by Commissioner Missy Baskervill and seconded by Commissioner Candy Bohmert, the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**BE IT RESOLVED, the request for approval of Resolution Opposing House Bill 486 Regarding the Definition of Commercial Fishing is hereby approved.**

**RESOLUTION**

**OPPOSING NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE BILL 486**

**THAT WOULD CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF COMMERCIAL FISHING**

**WHEREAS**, the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners has steadfastly supported North Carolina's Commercial Fishermen who are a vital part of our State's history, heritage, and culture and represent a crucial component of the economy for Pamlico County and other coastal communities. According to the NC Division of Marine Fisheries, the sales impact of the harvesting and sale of commercial seafood is \$388,325,000 and the income impact of employed commercial fishermen is \$166,066,000; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 486 proposes to drastically raise the annual Commercial Fishing license fee and impose burdensome requirements on commercial license holders, who are still recovering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Florence; and

**WHEREAS**, the introduction of House Bill 486 is yet another attempt to redefine commercial fishing, which would be detrimental to North Carolina's Commercial Fishing Industry. In fact, last year the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission embarked on an effort to change the criteria of what constitutes a commercial fishing operation by imposing, among other things, that license holders document annual seafood landings of at least 1,000 pounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners on February 5, 2018, again on March 5, 2018, and yet again on June 18, 2018 adopted unanimous resolutions opposing any change in the definition of commercial fishing based on the following - - -

- No other professional license issued by the State dictates a level of participation in order for its holders to qualify. Furthermore, the definition of what constitutes commercial fishing in North Carolina has already been determined by the General Assembly and has long been established in section 113-168 of North Carolina's General Statutes.
- Imposing an arbitrary level of participation based on landings would unfairly have a harsh and punitive effect on coastal communities hit by hurricanes and other natural disasters where many commercial license holders, whose income generating season may have been entirely wiped out by a storm, are forced to temporarily divert their time and talents to other business enterprises.
- Those who engage in commercial fishing already suffer because of government overregulation that imposes severe quotas and unnecessary restrictions on fishing seasons, limits, and gear forcing many to take on additional jobs and engage in part-time businesses in order to support their families.
- In October of 2010, the Marine Fisheries Commission empaneled a Fishing License Review Taskforce, which examined in detail the requirements for holding a commercial fishing license and concluded that the definition contained in the General Statutes was adequate and therefore there was no real need to modify the definition of what constitutes a commercial fisherman. In its Final Report the Taskforce clearly stated its recommendation that "no changes are needed to the existing definition"; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 486 is an attempt to fix something that is not broken and would jeopardize coastal communities whose economy and wellbeing are dependent upon both full-time and part-time commercial fishermen who are small, independent businesses that work hard under adverse conditions to put fresh, healthy North Carolina seafood on American tables.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners reaffirms its unwavering commitment to North Carolina's commercial fishing industry by strongly opposing House Bill 486, or any other action, that would change the definition of Commercial Fishing or cause harm to North Carolina's Working Watermen.

Adopted this the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2019.

On a motion made by Commissioner Missy Baskervill and seconded by Commissioner Candy Bohmert, the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**BE IT RESOLVED, the request for approval for Finance Officer to sign Loan/Grant for Hurricane Florence Assistance is hereby approved.**

County Manager Tim Buck gave the Board members the following information:

Estimated Revenues for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	\$18,159,432
Estimated Expenses for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	\$20,337,085
Deficit	(\$2,177,653)

On a motion made by Commissioner Missy Baskervill and seconded by Commissioner Pat Prescott, the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**BE IT RESOLVED, the County Manager is hereby directed to factor a 1% COLA into budget for all employees at this time.**

On a motion made by Commissioner Missy Baskervill and seconded by Commissioner Ed Riggs, the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**BE IT RESOLVED, the County Manager and Finance Officer are hereby directed to keep the tax rate as 62.5 cents per one hundred dollars.**

On a motion made by Commissioner Missy Baskervill and seconded by Commissioner Pat Prescott, the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**BE IT RESOLVED, depending on contractual obligations already in place, the County Manager is hereby authorized to defer Courthouse repairs for one year.**

On a motion made by Commissioner Ed Riggs and seconded by Commissioner Candy Bohmert, the following resolution was passed by majority vote with Commissioner Doug Brinson casting a dissenting vote.

**BE IT RESOLVED, the County Manager is hereby directed to cut the Sheriff's car requests in half (3).**

On a motion made by Commissioner Missy Baskervill and seconded by Commissioner Candy Bohmert, the following resolution was passed by majority vote with Commissioner Ed Riggs casting a dissenting vote.

**BE IT RESOLVED, the County Manager is hereby directed to remove any compensation to employees to man convenience sites.**

A motion made by Commissioner Ed Riggs and seconded by Commissioner Carl Ollison to eliminate all remote recycling sites with the exception of recycling program located at the transfer station failed for lack of majority vote with Commissioners Doug Brinson, Candy Bohmert, Paul Delamar, and Pat Prescott casting dissenting votes.

A motion made by Commissioner Ed Riggs to remove recycling signs and put up trash signs failed for lack of a second.

On a motion made by Commissioner Carl Ollison and seconded by Commissioner Missy Baskervill, the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**BE IT RESOLVED, the Recycling Director is hereby directed to put up signs at all recycling convenience sites stating that the site is being monitored twenty-four hours by security cameras.**

There being no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Candy Bohmert and seconded by Commissioner Missy Baskervill, the Board adjourned until Monday, May 6, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

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Chairman

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Clerk to the Board