

**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES OF THE  
PAMLICO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2020**

The Pamlico County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 08, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Courtroom of the Pamlico County Courthouse. All Commissioners were present. Also present were County Attorney Dave Baxter, County Manager Tim Buck, Finance Officer Bill Fentress, and Clerk to the Board Courtney L. Norfleet.

Chairman Pat Prescott called the meeting to order.

Chairman Pat Prescott recognized Reverend Grady Simpson to lead the assemblage in prayer. Chairman Pat Prescott led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Pat Prescott asked if there were any corrections, additions, and/or deletions to the Monday, August 17, 2020 regular and the Wednesday, August 26, 2020 special session minutes. There being none, on a motion made by Commissioner Carl Ollison and seconded by Commissioner Doug Brinson, the following resolution was unanimously approved.

**BE IT RESOLVED, the regular session minutes of the Monday, August 17, 2020 meeting and the special session minutes of the Wednesday, August 26, 2020 meeting are hereby approved, and the Chairman’s signature is authorized thereon.**

Chairman Pat Prescott asked if there were any additions and/or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

There were no members of the public to speak during public comment period.

The Board then turned their attention to the Consent Agenda.

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

**BE IT RESOLVED, the following tax reliefs and releases are hereby approved.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Tax/Ticket</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Irma Gaskill, Heirs	2020	6711192	Wrong Owner	\$ 175.67
Sharon Jacobs	2020	6706889/6733064	Value adjustment due to appeal	\$ 22.58
Donald Oakley	2020	6708118	Value adjusted per bill of sale	\$ 165.46
Christa Collins	2020	6708851	To apply exemption	\$ 280.32
Taylor Jackson	2018	6707514/6707513		
	2019	6678161/6678160		
	2020	6649238/6649239	Taxpayer sold boat/motor in 2017	\$ 50.18
Christian Michaels	2020	6708212	To Correct Exemption	\$ 140.05
Christopher Baird	2020	6726306	To Correct Exemption	\$ 905.55
Harry Levin	2020	6732324	Clerical Error, was marked sold on listing form	\$ 20.72
William Childress	2020	6732929	Motor was double billed	\$ 3.21
John Coulter	2020	6713729	Value adjusted per bill of sale	\$ 170.63

Arthur Tierney	15/16	6587153/6613966		
	17/18	6642145/6671757		
	19/20	6700680/6730175	Camper was double billed	\$ 234.96
Kevin Brown	2020	6708595	Value adjusted according to bill of sale	\$ 1605.76
Sheryl Laughinghouse	2020	6708690	Removed late listing fee – Clerical Error	\$ 5.54
James Destefano	2020	6710613	Value adjusted using bill of sale	\$ 8.08
Bryan Barrow	2020	6706936	Double Billed	\$ 113.85
J Dewitt Cowell	2020	6714249	To Correct Exemption	\$ 7.09
Stephanie Jones	2020	6705794	Boat sold in 2019	\$ 218.05
Brenda Duran	2020	6722180	Mobile Home moved out of county in 2018	\$ 271.66
Phillip Ambler	2020	6730504	Value adjusted according to Bill of Sale	\$ 45.73
Stephanie Boyer	2020	6708101	Adjusted value on mobile home – value on permit was too high	\$ 332.11
M & J Marine, LLC	2020	6707952/6707951	Boats were double listed	\$ 2001.08
William Wiley	2020	6730807	Wrong District – Customer billed in Carteret Co.	\$ 57.30
James Pate	2020	6708613	Boat was double listed	\$ 754.60
Richard Tetterton	2020	6713503	To Correct Exemption	\$ 261.91
Robert King	2020	6723105	Release late listing – Clerical Error	\$ 22.01
Fred Johnson, Jr.	2020	6729176/6729177	Boat/Motor no longer wants	\$ 12.16
Ahmet Erkan	2020	6708608/6708609	Boat/Motor Double listed	\$ 77.01
Emiel Visser	2020	6708661/6708662	Boat/Motor double listed	\$ 319.96
Michael Pawlikowski	2020	6708315	Value Appealed, bill of sale sent in	\$ 142.63
James Lee	2020	6732997	Wrong Info given	\$ 42.44
Orval Ireland	2020	6728644	Wrong year of motor	\$ 41.61
Willard Martin, Jr.	2020	6725330	Double Billed	\$ 549.55
Christian Church in NC				
Disciples of Christ	2020	6725918	To Correct Exemption	\$ 107.62
Joe Allen Bell	2020	6727419	To Correct Exemption	\$ 312.20
Robert Wintemberg	2020	6706334	Clerical Error	\$ 106.14
Gerald Grant	2020	6712057	Clerical Error	\$ 76.24
Abstract Building & Renovation	19/20	6678634/6707973	Boat destroyed in 2018	\$ 35.44
Deidre Boone	2020	6726577	To Correct Exemption	\$ 866.28
Allen Foreman	2020	6718843/6718842	No longer owns	\$ 34.04
David Halchin	2019	6677873	Boat sank in Hurricane Florence	\$ 48.61
Vernon Baker	18/19	6662203/6690801	Double Wide Mobile Home was double listed	\$ 259.56
On a New Tack, LLC	2020	6732956	Value adjusted per appeal	\$ 182.40
Mike Pail	2020	6708688	Boat was double billed with business account	\$ 731.50
Dan Bennett	2020	6729727	Value adjusted on boat	\$ 18.10
Russ Bolz	2020	6705332	Vehicle inoperable – In shop	\$ 111.02
Charlie Gaskill	2020	6732954	Clerical Error – DVA exemption not applied	\$ 299.34
John Barrie	2020	6712787/6712786		
	2020	6712785/6712784	Boats removed from county in 2019	\$ 75.78
Pamlico Packing Co., Inc.	2020	6728072/6708073		
	2020	6728074/6708075		
	2020	6728076/6728077	Vehicles being double billed with DMV	\$ 230.78

**BE IT RESOLVED, the following budget amendments are hereby approved.**

*Department:* **Board of Elections**

The original budget is being revised with this Budget Revision. A Budget Amendment will revise the total dollar amount, either increase or decrease, of the original Budget Ordinance. A Line Item Transfer will revise the dollar amounts allocated between different programs in a department with more than one budget code or different line items within a single department code but will not increase or decrease the Budget Ordinance.

**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
104170-512600	Salaries & Wages P/T		\$ 10,000.00
104170-529000	Departmental Supplies	\$ 10,000.00	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To move funds to cover expenses associated with the HAVA Grant and Cares Act Grant for reimbursement in preparation for the November General Election.

*Department:* **Health Department**

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
105110-512100	General Salaries & Wages		\$ 385,367.00
105111-512100	BT Salaries & Wages	\$ 16,968.00	
105124-512100	TB Control Salaries & Wages	\$ 10,262.00	
105127-512100	CD Salaries & Wages	\$ 5,616.00	
105129-512100	IMM Salaries & Wages	\$ 10,262.00	
105159-512100	BCCCP Salaries & Wages	\$ 10,262.00	
105160-512100	CH Salaries & Wages	\$ 10,262.00	
105163-512100	MH Salaries & Wages	\$ 10,262.00	
105163-512100 PMH	PMH Salaries & Wages	\$ 10,262.00	
105164-512100	PH Salaries & Wages	\$ 20,529.00	
105165-512100	HP Salaries & Wages	\$ 28,142.00	
105167-512100	WICC Salaries & Wages	\$ 44,622.00	
105168-512100	WICN Salaries & Wages	\$ 30,087.00	
105169-512100	WIC BF Salaries & Wages	\$ 6,116.40	
105171-512100	WICA Salaries & Wages	\$ 2,802.60	
105180-512100	EH Salaries & Wages	\$ 72,294.00	
105182-512100	Mosquito Salaries & Wages	\$ 300.00	
105190-512100	HIV/STD Salaries & Wages	\$ 10,262.00	
105191-512100	F&L Salaries & Wages	\$ 65,532.00	
105151-512100	PC Salaries & Wages	\$ 10,262.00	
105151-512100 OS	OS Salaries & Wages	\$ 10,262.00	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To move funds to reallocate salary expenses from general to program areas.

**Department: Health Department**

The original budget is being revised with this Budget Revision. A Budget Amendment will revise the total dollar amount, either increase or decrease, of the original Budget Ordinance. A Line Item Transfer will revise the dollar amounts allocated between different programs in a department with more than one budget code or different line items within a single department code but will not increase or decrease the Budget Ordinance.

**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
105110-518100	General FICA		\$ 18,490.30
105111-518100	BT FICA	\$ 1,000.00	
105124-518100	TB FICA	\$ 500.00	
105127-518100	CD FICA	\$ 357.70	
105129-518100	IMM FICA	\$ 700.00	
105159-518100	BCCCP FICA	\$ 800.00	
105160-518100	CH FICA	\$ 500.00	
105163-518100	MH FICA	\$ 250.00	
105163-518100 PMH	PMH FICA	\$ 70.00	
105164-518100	PH FICA	\$ 2,000.00	
105165-518100	HP FICA	\$ 1,791.00	
105167-518100	WICC FICA	\$ 2,862.30	
105168-518100	WICN FICA	\$ 1,931.90	
105169-518100	WIC BF FICA	\$ 393.55	
105171-518100	WICA FICA	\$ 178.85	
105180-518100	EH FICA	\$ 827.50	
105182-518100	Mosquito FICA	\$ 200.00	
105190-518100	HIV/STD FICA	\$ 2,000.00	
105191-518100	F&L FICA	\$ 827.50	
105151-518100	PC FICA	\$ 300.00	
105151-518100 OS	OS FICA	\$ 1,000.00	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To move funds to reallocate salary expenses from general to program areas.

**Department: Health Department**

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
105110-518101	General Medicare		\$ 5,791.00
105111-518101	BT Medicare	\$ 300.00	
105124-518101	TB Medicare	\$ 161.00	
105127-518101	CD Medicare	\$ 123.00	
105129-518101	IMM Medicare	\$ 200.00	
105159-518101	BCCCP Medicare	\$ 180.00	
105160-518101	CH Medicare	\$ 100.00	
105163-518101	MH Medicare	\$ 60.00	
105163-518101 PMH	PMH Medicare	\$ 10.00	
105164-518101	PH Medicare	\$ 434.00	
105165-518101	HP Medicare	\$ 3.00	
105167-518101	WICC Medicare	\$ 615.00	
105168-518101	WICN Medicare	\$ 800.00	

105169-518101	WIC BF Medicare	\$ 60.00
105171-518101	WICA Medicare	\$ 100.00
105180-518101	EH Medicare	\$ 1,000.00
105182-518101	Mosquito Medicare	\$ 70.00
105190-518101	HIV/STD Medicare	\$ 300.00
105191-518101	F&L Medicare	\$ 800.00
105151-518101	PC Medicare	\$ 75.00
105151-518101 OS	OS Medicare	\$ 400.00

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To move funds to reallocate salary expenses from general to program areas.

**Department: Health Department**

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (+) INCREASED	AMOUNT(-) DECREASED
105110-518200	General Retirement		\$ 32,329.00
105111-518200	BT Retirement	\$ 2,200.00	
105124-518200	TB Retirement	\$ 500.00	
105127-518200	CD Retirement	\$ 800.00	
105129-518200	IMM Retirement	\$ 1,000.00	
105159-518200	BCCCP Retirement	\$ 966.00	
105160-518200	CH Retirement	\$ 603.00	
105163-518200	MH Retirement	\$ 360.00	
105163-518200 PMH	PMH Retirement	\$ 40.00	
105164-518200	PH Retirement	\$ 2,500.00	
105165-518200	HP Retirement	\$ 1,800.00	
105167-518200	WICC Retirement	\$ 4,400.00	
105168-518200	WICN Retirement	\$ 1,600.00	
105169-518200	WIC BF Retirement	\$ 60.00	
105171-518200	WICA Retirement	\$ 400.00	
105180-518200	EH Retirement	\$ 6,500.00	
105182-518200	Mosquito Retirement	\$ 50.00	
105190-518200	HIV/STD Retirement	\$ 1,300.00	
105191-518200	F&L Retirement	\$ 5,500.00	
105151-518200	PC Retirement	\$ 250.00	
105151-518200 OS	OS Retirement	\$ 1,500.00	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To move funds to reallocate salary expenses from general to program areas.

**Department: Health Department**

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
105110-518300	General Group Insurance		\$ 63,180.00
105111-518300	BT Group Insurance	\$ 2,106.00	
105124-518300	TB Group Insurance	\$ 1,968.00	
105127-518300	CD Group Insurance	\$ 702.00	
105129-518300	IMM Group Insurance	\$ 1,968.00	
105159-518300	BCCCP Group Insurance	\$ 1,968.00	
105160-518300	CH Group Insurance	\$ 1,968.00	
105163-518300	MH Group Insurance	\$ 1,968.00	
105163-518300 PMH	PMH Group Insurance	\$ 1,968.00	
105164-518300	PH Group Insurance	\$ 3,946.49	
105165-518300	HP Group Insurance	\$ 7,020.00	
105167-518300	WICC Group Insurance	\$ 7,020.00	
105168-518300	WICN Group Insurance	\$ 4,914.00	
105169-518300	WIC BF Group Insurance	\$ 705.51	
105171-518300	WICA Group Insurance	\$ 100.00	
105180-518300	EH Group Insurance	\$10,180.00	
105182-518300	Mosquito Group Insurance	\$ 350.00	
105190-518300	HIV/STD Group Insurance	\$ 1,968.00	
105191-518300	F&L Group Insurance	\$ 8,424.00	
105151-518300	PC Group Insurance	\$ 1,968.00	
105151-518300 OS	OS Group Insurance t	\$ 1,968.00	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To move funds to reallocate salary expenses from general to program areas.

**Department: Health Department**

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
100211-435161	WIC	\$ 561.00	
105167-512100	WIC Salaries & Wages	\$ 561.00	
100211-435162	WIC Nutrition	\$ 561.00	
105168-512100	WIC Nutrition Salaries & Wages	\$ 561.00	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To recognize additional funds received to serve additional participants in the program.

*Department:* Sheriff Department

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
100000-439900	Fund Balance Appropriation	\$ 2,643.05	
104310-539801 RCAR	Controlled Substance Expense	\$ 2,643.05	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To move unused funds to current year.

*Department:* Emergency Management

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
104330-541075	EMS Equipment EMPG-S	\$ 7,500.00	
104330-555000	Capital Outlays		\$ 7,500.00

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To move funds to cover required match for EMPG-S Grant EMA-2020-EP-00016.

*Department:* Emergency Management

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
100223-434332	Emergency Management Supplies	\$ 12,137.00	
104330-512100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 4,637.00	
104330-541075	EMS Equipment - EMPGS	\$ 7,500.00	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To increase budgets per new EMPG-S Grant (EMA-2020-EP-00016).

*Department:* **Recreation Department**

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
100000-439900	Fund Balance Appropriation	\$ 3,094.06	
106120-529000 19017	Departmental Supplies	\$ 3,094.06	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To move unused grant funds to current year.

*Department:* **Animal Control**

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
100600-400000	Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 397.43	
104380-519900	Contracted Services	\$ 397.43	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To recognize funds received for Animal Control and increase Contracted Services line for Animal Control.

*Department:* **Golden Leaf**

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
854985-539500 ACS	Training	\$ 8,715.58	
854985-539500 PCS	Training		\$ 8,715.58

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To change budgets to accommodate actual Golden leaf expenses for each school.

*Department:* **Health Department**

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
100211-435510	Aid to Counties	\$ 197.96	
105110-529000	Departmental Supplies	\$ 197.96	
100211-435154	Women's Preventive Health	\$ 462.70	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To recognize increase in funding.

*Department:* **Sheriff Department**

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
100213-434328	Controlled Substance - Restricted	\$ 564.67	
104310-539801	Controlled Substance - Expenses	\$ 564.67	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To recognize revenue for Controlled Substance and increase associated expenditure line.

*Department:* **COVID 19**

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**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT (+) INCREASED</b>	<b>AMOUNT(-) DECREASED</b>
880213-434985	COVID 19 State Funds	\$ 246,985.53	
884988-549922	CARES Funding Town of Minnesott	\$ 14,368.20	
884988-549923	CARES Funding Town of Arapahoe	\$ 18,156.17	
884988-549924	CARES Funding Town of Oriental	\$ 32,524.37	
884988-549925	CARES Funding Town of Bayboro	\$ 39,610.12	
884988-512100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 142,326.67	

*Reason for Budget Revision:* To recognize revenue from CARES Funding and distribute to towns and county.

**BE IT RESOLVED, the request to adjust salary for Accounting Tech II, Amanda Carey from \$31,509 to \$32,500 is hereby approved.**

**BE IT RESOLVED, the request to declare surplus the vehicles and equipment listed below and to authorize staff to sell the properties by auction on GovDeals.com is hereby approved.**

<u>Property</u>	<u>Last 4 VIN</u>	<u>Department</u>
1998 Ford Ranger	5313	Health
1999 Pontiac Sunfire	4556	Public Services
Hustler Mower	N/A	Public Services
2000 GMC Yukon	5745	Sheriff
2002 Ford Ranger	5603	Sheriff

**BE IT RESOLVED, the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners regular meeting schedule below is hereby approved:**

**The Pamlico County Board of Commissioners regular meeting is scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the Month at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room (Patsy Sadler Room) located on the second floor of the Pamlico County Courthouse. Exceptions to this schedule are listed below:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in December (December 21, 2020 and December 20, 2021) is cancelled.
- January 18, 2021 meeting rescheduled to January 19, 2021 to observe Martin Luther King Day.
- July 5, 2021 meeting rescheduled to July 6, 2021 to observe Independence Day
- September 6, 2021 meeting rescheduled to September 7, 2021 to observe Labor Day

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

**BE IT RESOLVED, the following policy for catastrophic water leak adjustments to water bills is hereby approved.**

**"Catastrophic Water Leak" Adjustment**

If during the twelve (12)-month period for which the customer is no longer eligible for a 100% leak adjustment experiences another leak that is considered catastrophic, the customer may be eligible for additional relief.

- a. A catastrophic leak is defined as water loss due to a busted line or leak resulting in a bill which is at least five (5) times the average bill for the preceding twelve (12) months (excluding the previous leak usage).

- b. The customer must make application for adjustment no later than the end of the month immediately following the due date of the bill reflecting the leak or busted pipe.
- c. All needed repairs or actions to prevent any further loss of water must have been made.
- d. The bill will be adjusted to five (5) times the average bill for the preceding twelve (12)-month period (excluding the previous leak usage).
- e. If it is determined that the leak occurred during a period which overlaps two (2) consecutive billing periods, both bills may be adjusted provided both bills qualify for adjustment. No more than two (2) bills may be adjusted for each catastrophic leak request.
- f. The customer is eligible for one (1) catastrophic leak adjustment during the twelve (12)-month period after the initial adjustment.
- g. The customer may request a payment plan not to exceed five (5) months.
- h. This provision is effective for any catastrophic leak adjustment applications submitted on or after July 1, 2020.

On a motion made by Commissioner Missy Baskervill and seconded by Commissioner Candy Bohmert, the following resolution was approved by majority vote with Commissioners Paul Delamar and Pat Prescott casting dissenting votes.

**BE IT RESOLVED, the request to enter contract with engineering firm The East Group for treatment improvements to Grantsboro/Kershaw Water Treatment Plants and to authorize the Chairman to sign contract documents is hereby approved.**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED, Pamlico County will hereby send a letter of similar measure to our representatives requesting resumption of normal operations of the Minnesott Beach/Cherry Branch Ferry.**

District 2 Cherry Branch Operations  
NCDOT Ferry Division,  
2300 Ferry Rd, Havelock, NC 28532

Ferry Division / Operations & Finance  
Harold Thomas, John Dixon and Catherine Peele

8550 Shipyard Road  
Manns Harbor, NC 27953

Re: Minnesott Beach/Cherry Branch Reduced Ferry Schedule

Dear All:

As you are well aware, the ferry service between Minnesott Beach and Cherry Branch is running on a reduced schedule. The current schedule is imposing a significant burden on regional commuter workforce, contractors, vendors, veterans and students. The schedule begins after most are due to report to work, school, college or other appointments. Even at the time the ferry is running, it is usually full and commuters are left waiting. We are writing to ask for your assistance to have the ferry schedule adjusted.

We recognize the impact of COVID-19 on regional businesses, populations, industry, educational and local government institutions and are duty bound to address additional items, such as the ferry schedule, that further threaten their viability.

There are those who believe that ferry routes mostly serve tourists. This is not the case for the Minnesott-Cherry Branch Ferry. This route is predominantly utilized by citizens of Pamlico, Craven, Carteret and Beaufort County who rely on this ferry to commute to and from regional jobs, medical appointments and educational institutions.

This issue is not just about one town or county, it is regional. Below are a few reasons why it is vital that DOT give the same consideration to our region as it has for other ferry routes:

1. Workforce from Beaufort, SE Carteret, SE Craven County and Pamlico counties commute, via ferry, to work in all 4 counties.
2. This ferry serves regional workforce and other commuters for: Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, regional business and manufacturing industry, contractors, Port at Morehead City, Nutrien, vendors, veterans utilizing Veteran's Administration medical facilities, goods delivery, several schools' and colleges' students and staff and regional volunteers...
3. Detouring via roadways from SE Craven, SE Beaufort, NE Carteret, or SE Pamlico counties may add up to 50 minutes each way to a commute. This is a physical and financial hardship on commuters, but especially for school children.
4. Detoured commuter times will be even greater once Interstate 42 road work causes Highway 70 traffic in James City to be diverted to 2 lane Old Cherry Point Highway. This section of Highway 70 already sees several accidents per day. Any additional regional commuter traffic to the area during peak traffic hours will increase the potential for accidents and delays, especially once traffic is diverted onto Old Cherry Point Highway. This will increase demand on busy emergency services.
5. Approximately, 200 children per day utilize the ferry for educational purposes. Many of these are children of military personnel stationed at MCAS Cherry Point plus base vendors and contractors. With the MCAS base expansion, we expect those numbers to increase.

6. There have been past attempts to reduce the ferry runs and/or to put tourism-based fee policies into place that are extremely detrimental to regional workforce, educational, medical access and industry needs.

We are concerned that with continued scheduled reduction of the use of the ferry during genuine peak commuter demand, we may be fighting an even larger future battle to protect this integral piece of the regional transportation system. The current period of peak demand schedule reduction will result in reduced commuter use numbers and may create a false perception regarding the necessity of the ferry for daily commuters. This may produce a precedent to maintain the cut in schedule, to implement tourism-based fee schedules that are unaffordable to most commuters, or to cut ferry service at that branch.

The current schedule is, and continues to be, a hardship on our communities and region. We respectfully request that the NC DOT Ferry Division adjust the Minnesott- Cherry Branch schedule of operations to handle the peak workforce, industry and educational needs. Adjusting the operations schedule to handle those peak demand needs would benefit the entire region. We appreciate your careful consideration of this request. Please let us know if there is anything that we may do to assist in the resolution of this matter.

Respectfully,

Timothy A. Buck,  
Pamlico County Manager  
PO Box 776, Bayboro, NC 28515

Cc:

Senator Norman Sanderson  
300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 628  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Representative Bobby Hanig  
300 N. Salisbury Street, Rm. 604  
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

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

**BE IT RESOLVED, staff is hereby authorized to enter contract and pay McClees Consulting \$13,750 upon signature with the balance of \$13,750 due in January 2021.**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED, Commissioner Carl Ollison is hereby reappointed to the Bay River Metropolitan Sewer District Board of Directors for a term of three (3) years.**

On a motion made by Commissioner Paul Delamar and seconded by Commissioner Missy Baskervill, the Board met in closed session pursuant to NCGS §143.318-11(a)(6) to discuss employee performance.

On a motion made by Commissioner Doug Brinson and seconded by Commissioner Ed Riggs, the Board went back into open session.

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

**BE IT RESOLVED, Attorney Dave Baxter is hereby authorized to file a complaint/petition against the State of North Carolina within the week regarding a decision by North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Health Section.**

There being no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Paul Delamar and seconded by Commissioner Candy Bohmert, the Board adjourned until Monday, September 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

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Chairman

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Clerk to the Board