



**REGULAR SESSION MINUTES OF THE
PAMLICO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023**

The Pamlico County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 7, 2023 at 7:00pm in the Patsy H. Sadler room of the Pamlico County Courthouse. Commissioners Missy Baskervill, Kari Forrest, Candy Bohmert, Ed Riggs, Doug Brinson, Pat Prescott, and Carl Ollison were present. Also present were County Attorney Dave Baxter, County Manager Tim Buck, Finance Officer Bill Fentress, and Clerk to the Board Chantelle Allison.

Chairman Riggs called the meeting to order. Rev. Grady Simpson offered the invocation, and Chairman Riggs led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Riggs asked if there were any corrections, additions, and/or deletions to the July 17, 2023 Regular Session or the July 24, 2023 Special Called Meeting minutes. There were no changes, then on a motion made by Commissioner Bohmert and seconded by Commissioner Prescott, the following resolution was unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, the July 17, 2023 Regular Session and the July 24, 2023 Special Called Meeting minutes are hereby approved, and the Chairman's signature is authorized thereon.

Public Comment: 5 members of the public signed up to speak.

Mr. Ken Heath, Mayor of the Town of Arapahoe, wished to thank the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners, the Towns in Pamlico County, and multiple surrounding counties for their quick response in passing resolutions against the State implementing on the currently free ferries.

Rev. Ray Griffin spoke on behalf of the Trent Original Free Will Baptist Church in Merritt. They are holding a County-wide Day of Prayer on August 26, 2023 from 9am-5pm. Anyone who would like to come is welcome to come and go as they please.

Mr. Ricky Green spoke regarding the Transfer Station in Grantsboro and stated that he had spoken to the management there to request that something be done about loose nails on the ground in the areas where customers drive. He suggested a magnet or other device be attached to the yard trucks so they would pick up the nails as they drove around, therefore lessening the chances of customer's vehicles having flat tires. Mr. Green requested the Board's help; his requests to the Station's management had not had any results.

Mr. Tim Fowler spoke in opposition to the proposed resolution requesting a feasibility study for building a bridge from Minnesott Beach across to Cherry Point. Some cited reasons were increased traffic and road wear & tear, possible widening of the road, and potential to affect property values. Mr. Fowler requested the Board table their decision on the resolution for a couple weeks so other towns could have the opportunity to weigh in as well.

Mr. Patrick "Sarge" O'Donnell spoke in opposition to the bridge feasibility study as well, concurring with Mr. Fowler's concerns.

Chairman Riggs then closed the Public Comment Period and asked if there were any other additions and/or deletions to the agenda; Commissioner Bohmert made a motion to add an additional Budget Amendment, replace the information regarding the Metermark Contract with an updated version, and move the Consent item regarding an MOU with NC State University CDDL to the Correspondence Agenda.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, the following FY23-24 Budget Amendment(s) are hereby approved.

<i>Department:</i> Health Department			#24-030
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (+) INCREASED	AMOUNT(-) DECREASED
100211-435135	Comm Disease Pandemic Rec	\$ 40,915.00	
105126-512100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 27,915.00	
105126-512200	Overtime	\$ 1,000.00	
105126-518100	FICA Expense	\$ 500.00	
105126-518101	Medicare Expense	\$ 500.00	
105126-518200	Retirement Expense	\$ 1,000.00	
105126-518300	Group Insurance	\$ 1,000.00	
105126-529000	Departmental Supplies	\$ 9,000.00	
<i>Reason for Budget Revision:</i> To increase funds to expand communicable disease surveillance, detection, control, and prevention to address COVID-19 activities.			

<i>Department:</i> Health Department			#24-031
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (+) INCREASED	AMOUNT(-) DECREASED
100211-435517	543 ELC Enhancing Detect Rev	\$ 2,397.00	
105157-512100	Salaries & Wages	\$ 1,597.00	
105157-518100	FICA Expense	\$ 150.00	
105157-518101	Medicare Expense	\$ 150.00	
105157-518200	Retirement Expense	\$ 150.00	
105157-518300	Group Insurance	\$ 350.00	
<i>Reason for Budget Revision:</i> To increase funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID.			

<i>Department:</i> Tribal Grant			#24-032
FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024			
ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (+) INCREASED	AMOUNT(-) DECREASED
100000-439900	Fund Balance App	\$ 92,245.00	
144992-500000	Expenditure	\$ 92,245.00	
<i>Reason for Budget Revision:</i> To move unused Tribal Grant funds to current year.			

Department: DSS

#24-033

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (+) INCREASED	AMOUNT(-) DECREASED
10000-439900	Fund Balance App	\$ 31,195.91	
105310-549731	CCU Medicaid Expenses	\$ 31,195.91	

Reason for Budget Revision: To reflect CCU funds received from the state 6/16/23 to carry over CCU Medicaid to FY 2023-24.

Department: DSS

#24-034

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (+) INCREASED	AMOUNT(-) DECREASED
105550-519900	Contracted Services	\$ 26,580.00	
105373-519900III	Contracted Services		\$ 26,580.00
105550-519900	Contracted Services	\$ 9,239.00	
100212-435310	Administrative Reimb DSS	\$ 9,239.00	

Reason for Budget Revision: To reflect HCCBG funds actually received \$87,819.00 total between level II and level III.

Department: Various

#24-035

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT (+) INCREASED	AMOUNT(-) DECREASED
	<u>Personnel</u>		
104121-512103	Salary Supplement		\$ 20,360.00
104121-518100	FICA Expense		\$ 1,218.12
104121-518101	Medicare Expense		\$ 284.88
104121-518200	Retirement Expense		\$ 2,382.24
104121-518300	Group Insurance		\$ 1,897.56
	<u>Health Department</u>		
105110-512103	Salary Supplement	\$ 16,500.00	
105110-518100	FICA Expense	\$ 982.48	
105110-518101	Medicare Expense	\$ 229.77	
105110-518200	Retirement Expense	\$ 1,927.49	
105110-518300	Group Insurance	\$ 1,370.72	
	<u>DSS</u>		
105310-512103	Salary Supplement	\$ 2,516.00	
105310-518100	FICA Expense	\$ 155.01	
105310-518101	Medicare Expense	\$ 36.25	
105310-518200	Retirement Expense	\$ 253.69	
105310-518300	Group Insurance	\$ 323.30	
	<u>Water Department</u>		
307120-512103	Salary Supplement	\$ 588.00	
307120-518100	FICA Expense	\$ 34.69	
307120-518101	Medicare Expense	\$ 8.11	
307120-518200	Retirement Expense	\$ 103.92	
307120-518300	Group Insurance	\$ 75.56	
307140-512103	Salary Supplement	\$ 756.00	
307140-518100	FICA Expense	\$ 45.94	
307140-518101	Medicare Expense	\$ 10.75	
307140-518200	Retirement Expense	\$ 97.14	
307140-518300	Group Insurance	\$ 127.98	

Reason for Budget Revision: To move supplement funds to the correct departments.

BE IT RESOLVED, the request from the Tax Administrator for approval of an Untimely Disabled Veterans Exemption Application, is hereby approved [23-24-026].

BE IT RESOLVED, the request to renew the Meter Reading Contract with Metermark for a term of 24 months, beginning September 1, 2023, is hereby approved [23-24-028].

BE IT RESOLVED, the request to enter into a formal agreement with Wilven LLC to lease/rent the Reelsboro Recycling Site for \$350 per month, and have the County Attorney draw up the agreement, is hereby approved [23-24-029].

BE IT RESOLVED, the request for approval of Salary Changes/Hire Rates for several employees, is hereby approved [23-24-030].

Increases to New Pay Scale Minimum			
Position	Current	Minimum	Difference
Senior Svcs - Driver/Activities Asst	22,880	26,186	3,306
DSS - Social Worker II	42,655	44,787	2,132
DSS - Social Worker II	44,786	44,787	1
		Total:	5,439
Promotion(s)			
Position	Current	New Salary	Difference
Senior Svcs - Office Assistant IV	27,689	30,314	2,625
		Total:	2,625
New Hires Needing Board Approval			
Position	Minimum Hire Rate	Requested Hire Rate	Difference
Detention I	35,092	40,474	5,382
Detention I	35,092	40,474	5,382
		Total:	10,764

BE IT RESOLVED, the request from the Recycling Dept. to increase the hire range for the Truck Driver Position from \$30,000 to \$41,600 and to increase the salary of the Recycling Administrator to \$43,680 contingent on hiring a new driver, is hereby approved [23-24-031].

The Board then turned their attention to the Correspondence Agenda.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, the request for approval of an MOU with NC State University Coastal Dynamics Design Lab for Floodprint Design Services, with an addition to the contract adding that the County was not obligated to contract for any additional services as a result of the study, is hereby approved [23-24-027].

Commissioner Baskervill made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bohmert to recuse Commissioner Forrest from the following discussion/vote, then on a motion made by Commissioner Baskervill and seconded by Commissioner Brinson, the following resolution was unanimously approved by a vote of 6:0 (Recused: Forrest).

BE IT RESOLVED, the request for approval of an additional subdivision phase of River Dunes that creates 7 new lots (approved in the master plan of the development), and authorization for the Chairman to sign the plat, is hereby approved [23-24-032].

The Board discussed the current status of the distribution of the Opioid Settlement Funds. All five of the non-profits selected for funding accepted the offer. The County Attorney will draft the County/Recipient agreements, and the Board will need to approve specific resolutions to allocate the funding [23-24-033].

On a motion made by Commissioner Baskervill and seconded by Commissioner Brinson, the motion to table a resolution requesting a feasibility study to build a bridge from Minnesott Beach to Cherry Branch failed by a vote of 2:5 (Ayes: Baskervill, Brinson. Nays: Forrest, Bohmert, Riggs, Prescott, Ollison) [23-24-034]

On a motion made by Commissioner Bohmert and seconded by Commissioner Prescott, the following resolution passed by a vote of 5:2 (Ayes: Forrest, Bohmert, Riggs, Prescott, Ollison. Nays: Baskervill, Brinson)

BE IT RESOLVED, a Resolution Requesting a Feasibility Study of Building a Bridge to Cross the Neuse River from Minnesott Beach to Cherry Branch, is hereby approved [23-24-034]. **(Resolution modified by vote later in the meeting, final version printed with the vote to modify.)**

On a motion made by Commissioner Baskervill, seconded by Commissioner Bohmert, and unanimously approved, the Board went into Closed Session for discussion regarding Personnel [N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)(6)]. Time Recorded: 8:13pm [23-24-035]

No action was taken in Closed Session.

On a motion made by Commissioner Brinson, seconded by Commissioner Riggs, and unanimously approved, the Board went back into Open Session. Time Recorded: 8:38pm

On a motion made by Commissioner Riggs and seconded by Commissioner Prescott, the following resolution approved by a vote of 6:1 (Nays: Baskervill)

BE IT RESOLVED, the request to modify the Resolution Requesting a Feasibility Study of Building a Bridge to Cross the Neuse River from Minnesott Beach to Cherry Branch , is hereby approved [23-24-034].

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF BUILDING A BRIDGE TO CROSS THE NEUSE RIVER FROM MINNESOTT BEACH TO CHERRY BRANCH

WHEREAS, Pamlico County, North Carolina is an isolated, rural county, surrounded by water on the eastern and southern sides, limiting efficient access to neighboring jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the NC Department of Transportation operates a ferry route between Minnesott Beach, NC and Cherry Branch, NC; and

WHEREAS, Minnesott Beach is located in Pamlico County; and

WHEREAS, approximately 325,000 people used the Minnesott Beach to Cherry Branch Ferry in 2022; and

WHEREAS, in Pamlico County, a transportation route crossing the Neuse River between Minnesott Beach and Cherry Branch, is extremely important to the local economy, providing transportation to local businesses, community colleges, public schools and U.S. Marine Corp Air Station (Cherry Point); and

WHEREAS, Pamlico County recognizes the essential importance of a Neuse River crossing from Pamlico County to Craven County; and

WHEREAS, in the future, a bridge, in lieu of ferries would be more reliable, safer and more cost effective once built; and

WHEREAS, plans are to significantly expand Cherry Point in the near future; and

WHEREAS, such expansion will create need for housing and road infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Pamlico County has capacity to support growth in housing and traffic; and

WHEREAS, the Highway 101 to Highway 306 route through Pamlico County could serve as an important transportation and emergency evacuation route for Cherry Point and citizens of Carteret and Craven Counties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners request that the State and/or Federal Government appropriate funds and conduct a feasibility study of building a bridge between Minnesott Beach, North Carolina and Cherry Branch North Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any proposed bridge structure included in a feasibility study should have at least 65 feet of clearance mid channel to accommodate sail boats.

There being no further business, on a motion made by Commissioner Riggs and seconded by Commissioner Bohmert, the Board recessed until 10am on August 8, 2023 to allow for a potential quorum at a meeting with Sam Shumate, Southeast Regional Director for U.S. Senator Ted Budd. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 7:00pm. Time Recorded: 9:10pm.

Chairman

Clerk to the Board