

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Deputy Clerk to the Board

WORK SESSION

May 20, 2019

7:00 p.m.

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met in a regular Work Session on Monday, May 20, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room located on the first floor of the Perquimans County Courthouse Annex.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

After the Chairman called the meeting to order, Commissioner Lennon gave the invocation and the Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance. The following matters were discussed.

PUBLIC SAFETY AT LARGE PRIVATE EVENTS

Chairman Nelson recognized County Manager Heath who explained that he had asked Sheriff Shelby White and Emergency Services Director, Jonathan Nixon, to come to the Work Session to discuss setting up procedures for public safety for large private events. Sheriff White spoke first explaining that they had heard and verified that Curtis Trueblood is planning on having a rock concert at the Drag Strip this coming weekend that have the possibility to have 1,000 to 5,000 people who will be bringing their own alcohol, no glass containers allowed. He further explained the cost that it would be to his department to provide the proper security for the event. The general rule for providing security for these large events is one (1) deputy per 500 people. Currently, he only has two (2) deputies on that shift to cover the safety of the entire county. The costs will be large to handle security for this event. Jonathan Nixon then explained the situation with Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Nixon said that they would have to have more personnel there also which would be a great cost to the County. After a short discussion, the Board asked Sheriff White and Mr. Nixon to meet and bring a document back for the Board to consider and take action on. They said that they would.

DRAINAGE RESOLUTION

County Manager Heath explained that he had received an e-mail from Mark Powell, Program & Project Management Consultant for Albemarle Resource Conservation & Development Council with a proposed Resolution for the Board to consider. The Resolution was asking for the State to increase financial assistance to the ten counties in northeastern North Carolina around the Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds to strengthen critical drainage and water quality infrastructure in northeast North Carolina. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed to add it to the June 3, 2019 Agenda.

S-BRIDGE DISCUSSION

Chairman Nelson asked County Manager Heath to place this on the Work Session Agenda to discuss the revisions to the proposed S-Bridge replacement. The concern is the fact that the latest plan for the bridge replacement includes only a single navigational access as opposed to the two we currently have. Randy W. Midgett, PE, Acting Division Construction Engineer/District One Field Engineer, sent an e-mail the following e-mail explaining their position:

The Department and the Design Build team have requested that the US Coast Guard Permit the bridge crossing with a single navigational channel versus the double channel as currently exists.

The decision to light and fender only one side of the Swing Span Bridge was based upon existing vessel traffic counts. Similar to a decision to build a two lane versus four lane highway, we felt there wasn't sufficient navigational traffic to justify the expense to build and maintain a lighting and fender system on both sides of the swing span.

The new single fender channel will have a horizontal clearance of 55 feet. The vertical clearance will be uninhibited. The US 17 Bypass bridges just downstream also have a horizontal clearance of 55 feet inside the fender system. The vertical clearance of that crossing is 30 feet.

Having a single fender system on the new S Bridge will not reduce the current capacity of the waterway.

I have heard concern regarding a single channel potentially limiting the ability of a future passenger ferry reaching the downtown docks. The passenger ferry the Department currently has under construction is approximately 32 feet wide and draws approximately 4 feet of water. The 55 foot horizontal clearance of both crossings will allow passage of passenger ferries of similar size as the one currently being constructed.

After several questions and much discussion, the Board asked County Manager Heath to contact NCDOT to provide the Board with more visual information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Wallace E. Nelson, Chairman

Clerk to the Board
