

**PERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**OCTOBER 29, 2012**  
**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jimmy B. Clayton  
Kyle W. Puryear  
B. Ray Jeffers  
Samuel R. Kennington  
Frances P. Blalock

Heidi York, County Manager  
Brenda B. Reaves, Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Person, North Carolina, met in special called session on Monday, October 29, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Bethel Hill Charter School located at 401 Bethel Hill School Road, Roxboro for the purpose of holding an informal Community Conversations meeting.

Chairman Clayton called the Community Conversations meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Board members and county staff present introduced themselves to the audience.

The purpose of the informal Community Conversations meeting is to receive feedback from the community about county services.

Attendees were given the opportunity to sign up with the Clerk to the Board to address the Board or the option to write down questions or comments to be read.

A total of 37 people were in attendance which included Board members, county staff and citizens.

County Manager, Heidi York told the group the Community Conversations meetings were developed to show more transparency in county government as well as give the public a chance to speak to the commissioners about community priorities.

Ms. York highlighted the *What's Happening in Person County Government* flyer presented to all attendees upon arrival. The handout included information about New Values for all Real Property in 2013, County-wide high speed internet, an update on Recycling, Library news, Person County's Strategic Plan, statistics related to your property tax dollars, neighboring counties' tax rates, as well as explained where revenue is gained and to which county services or function areas it is spent, as well as the structure of the Board of Commissioners and their meetings.

Clerk to the Board, Brenda Reaves, called the names of those individuals who had signed up to speak in the following order:

Mr. Cal Berryhill of 296 Claude Hall Road, Roxboro and farmer in northern Person County, advocated for the county to invest in extending sewer lines to the northern part of the county due to poor soils and poor land percolation. Mr. Berryhill stated the need for additional recreation programs in the northern part of the county. Vice Chairman Puryear agreed for the need for more recreational facilities and suggested the county recreation department expand its resources towards the different areas of the county. Commissioner Jeffers offered to take Mr. Berryhill's comments related to the needed recreational programs to the Recreation Advisory Board for discussion.

Mr. Jay Jennings of 155 High Rock Road, Hurdle Mills questioned the Board for a status on the water quality testing that would determine if Person County was contributing to the Falls Lake pollution and asked about the possibility for the Board to ask legislators to grant Person County a 2-year waiver to the Falls Lake Rules. Chairman Clayton asked the Assistant County Manager, Sybil Tate to give an update. Ms. Tate noted Person County has contracted with a nationally known consulting firm to conduct studies on the existing data. Ms. Tate stated a report is forthcoming in January/February 2013 that will identify what monitoring will be accepted by the State of NC. Ms. Tate told the group the next step will be obtaining the loading data. Chairman Clayton added that Person County believes the models that were relied upon when the Falls Lake Rules were enacted were inaccurate and that the county is trying to have its own water quality data to submit to the State of NC. Vice Chairman Puryear stated the Falls Lake rules were mandated by the State of NC and the Board voted to use General Fund Balance to absorb the costs so that residents would not be assessed a fee noting a request for waiver may be possible once the water quality results are determined. Mr. Jennings also asked the Board if the proposed Development Services Director is needed. Commissioner Blalock asked the County Manager, Heidi York to speak to the group relating to one-stop shop for permitting. Ms. York explained the City of Roxboro's Planner and the County's Planning Department are co-located as a first step to streamline the permitting process, noting the Development Services Director would be responsible for coordination of the processes between Planning, Inspections, Environmental Health and the applicant for those services, further noting this position would lead the 2-year process of unifying the City and County's Planning Ordinance. Mr. Jennings asked if the unified ordinance would consolidate the stormwater processes noting he would like to have a more local Stormwater Utility Services Manager which is currently in Granville County as a shared resource with Person County.

Mr. George Woody of 555 Bethel Hill School Road, Roxboro addressed the Board related to First Responders and the new stipulations and the associated costs. Ms. York noted the Medical Director is implementing new guidelines for First Responders and the need to stock certain supplies to supplement patient services at the scene of an accident. The additional costs is estimated at approximately \$2,000 to which Ms. York stated she would be recommending in next year's budget an increase for each volunteer fire department funding amount to accommodate the additional costs. Commissioner Kennington thanked Mr. Woody and his fellow volunteer fire fighters for the important

job they do for the community noting the Board of Commissioner has always supported volunteer fire departments.

Mr. John Betterton of 490 Richland Road, Roxboro, and Principal of Bethel Hill Charter School commented on the impact of Bethel Hill Charter School serving 385 students annually with a 100 plus waiting list with its 24 renovated classrooms located on 51 acre property. In addition eight more classrooms are being planned. Mr. Betterton noted the growth in facility capital was accomplished without availability of local capital funds or the NC Education Lottery capital funds. Mr. Betterton stated a lack of sewage line in the northern end of the county is one of the facility issues that limit growth noting with such sewage treatment, business, industry and Bethel Hill Charter School will have the potential to expand their services to Person County citizens. Mr. Betterton also suggested for Board consideration to offer a matching grant program for local communities as an opportunity to combine resources to provide benefits to citizens. Commissioner Jeffers commended Mr. Betterton for his participation and attendance in Raleigh legislative meetings.

Chairman Clayton asked the County Manager to add discussion related to sewer services to the next joint session agenda with the City of Roxboro. Commissioner Jeffers suggested staff to send the Board an update as to where the infrastructure is located in the county.

Commissioner Kennington asked that Mr. Berryhill talk with Person County's Economic Development Director, Stuart Gilbert related to visiting a farm operations and discussion related to a sewer line extended to the northern part of the county.

Commissioner Kennington recognized Mr. Betterton for his appointment by the Governor of NC to the 12-member Charter School Commission and for serving as its Chairperson noting 1000 students in Person County are attending charter schools and all citizens have a choice of schools.

Commissioner Blalock thanked Mr. Betterton and Commissioner Kennington for their efforts with charter schools noting another high school was saved from being built by the charter schools.

Ms. Laura Woody of 555 Bethel Hill School Road, Roxboro spoke of the need of a postal drop box in the northern part of the county due to the cutbacks at the Roxboro post office and the closing of the Leasburg post office. Vice Chairman Puryear suggested Ms. Woody contact Congressman Howard Coble.

Ms. Wendy McFarland of 6366 Boston Road, Roxboro thanked the county for the assistance for the volunteer fire departments and for any help for Bethel Hill Charter School noting the invaluable service the community receives from both entities. Chairman Clayton encouraged citizens to pay the dues to the community volunteer fire departments.

Ms. York and the Board of Commissioners thanked everyone for attending and participating in the Community Conversations meeting. Commissioner Blalock recognized a young boy scout in the audience that was attending to see how local government works. Commissioner Kennington recognized Mr. Berryhill and Mr. Bernard Obie both present that participated in the First Annual Farm Tour recently.

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Puryear, **seconded** by Commissioner Jeffers, and **carried 5-0** to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm.

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Brenda B. Reaves  
Clerk to the Board

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Jimmy B. Clayton  
Chairman