

**PERQUIMANS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
2012 RETREAT SUMMARY**

- The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners completed their 2012 Retreat held on February 4th and 18th at the future EMS building which was formerly the EMC Complex.
- The primary objective of the retreat was to update strategic plans for the next few years that reinforced the **mission** of the Board of Commissioners of: **“providing competent and efficient leadership, direction, services, and infrastructure; and to encourage education and innovation”**.
- And the **vision** for Perquimans County of: **“being the preferred community in which to live, learn, prosper and play”**.
- Other objectives of the retreat were: the sharing of accomplishments and evaluation of progress; defining goals, measures and timetables for the future; discussion of opportunities to improve local government and the economy; and team building.
- The sessions were facilitated by Charles Lacefield of Hertford.
- The strategic planning process included a presentation by Interim County Manager Frank Heath of changes since 1998 for ten key Perquimans County rankings as compared to the 100 NC Counties and recent census data. In 1998 Perquimans County was ranked 92nd lowest in population, today it is 90th. Property tax rate was 23rd, today it is the 86th lowest. Per capita income was 96th lowest, today it has improved to 56th.
- The Commissioners identified four core strategies for the County. **(1) Fund Education Facilities and Programs, (2) Provide Infrastructure Needs and Environmental Enhancements, (3) Foster Economic Development and Job Creation, and (4) Sustain Effective County Leadership and Personnel Development.**
- Each of the Core Strategies is supported by prioritized programs and actions. At the top of the list are: development of the Marine Industrial Park in the Commerce Center; modifying the Incubator Bldg. to accommodate a new Senior Center; establishing water supply from the Pasquotank County Reverse Osmosis Water Plant; evaluating technology options for the County; developing a comprehensive plan for use of County facilities; implementing school HVAC efficiencies; and implementing partnering opportunities with local town governments and the Chamber of Commerce.
- Achieving the goals of the 2012 Strategic Plan will encourage others to do business in the county, increase business growth and enhance the retention of college and vocational graduates.