

Windsor, North Carolina
December 1, 2014
Regular Meeting

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 10:00am in the Commissioners Room located at 106 Dundee Street Windsor, NC. The following members were present or absent:

Present: Ronald "Ron" Wesson, District I
Stewart White, District II
Tammy A. Lee, District III
John Trent, District IV
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: None

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer
Clerk to the Board Sarah S. Tinkham
County Attorney Lloyd Smith
Information Systems Administrator Scott Pearce
Network Administrator Joe Wilkes
Finance Director William Roberson
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper
EMS Division Chief Matt Leicester
NET Coordinator Kim Campbell
Compliance Officer Crystal Freeman
Department of Social Services Director Linda Speller
Cooperative Extension Director Richard Rhodes
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs

Sheriff's Office Staff Present: Sheriff John Holley
Administrative Assistant to the Sheriff Audrey Jernigan
Deputy Earl Anthony
Deputy Travis Askew
Deputy Charles Atkins
Deputy Roger Blount
Deputy Jerry Bond
Deputy Gail Bond
Deputy Everett Gamble
Deputy Charles Harmon
Deputy Alvin Hendrix
Deputy Shon Hines
Deputy Carl Hoggard
Deputy Doug Jernigan

Deputy Kevin Johnson
Deputy Vernon Lee
Deputy Ed Lipscomb
Deputy Dennis Little
Deputy Dwayne Outlaw
Deputy Beverly Peele
Deputy Kenny Perry
Deputy Martin Phelps
Deputy Ed Pittman
Deputy Bonnie Powell
Deputy Sheldon Rhines
Deputy Matt Roebuck
Deputy Brandon Turner
Deputy Naomi Wiggins
Deputy Harris Williams
Animal Control Officer William (Skip) Dunlow
Animal Control Officer Carl White

Administrative Staff Angela Bond
Administrative Staff Kevona Holley Bond
Telecommunications Staff Supervisor JW Stalls
Telecommunications Staff Nicole Fennell
Telecommunications Staff Frances McKeel
Telecommunications Staff Nedra Williams
Telecommunications Staff Travis Jackson
Telecommunications Staff Wenonador Pugh
Telecommunications Staff Alisia Wilkins

Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald, and Thadd White of the Bertie Ledger-Advance were present from the media.

Former Clerk of Superior Court, John Tyler, was present to participate in today's ceremonies. Mr. Tyler welcomed all those present, and introduced the public to all Commissioners, and County Administrative Staff.

Mr. Tyler then introduced Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, the Honorable Cy A. Grant, to administer the Oaths of Office.

OATHS OF OFFICE

John Holley, newly re-elected Bertie County Sheriff, was called forth to receive his Oath.

INVOCATION

Former Clerk of Superior Court, John Tyler, apologized for his error in regards to today's agenda, and requested that all those present participate in an Invocation before returning to the administration of the oaths.

Pastor R.O. "Buddy" Denton gave the Invocation.

OATHS OF OFFICE

At this time, Judge Grant administered oaths to all Sheriff's Office Deputies.

Additionally, newly elected Clerk of Superior Court, Vasti F. James was officially sworn into her post.

Lastly, newly elected Commissioners Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, Tammy A. Lee, and Stewart White were also sworn into their offices.

Former Clerk of Superior Court, John Tyler, asked if any Commissioners had any remarks that they would like to make at this time.

Commissioner White stated that he was never at a loss for words, and that he wanted to thank God for all His blessings. Mr. White assured the public that he appreciated their support and prayers throughout the election process.

Commissioner Lee echoed a similar sentiment, and requested that all citizens continue to pray for the County and the Board.

Commissioner Bazemore thanked all of her supporters and stated that she hoped to live up to all of their expectations as a Commissioner.

RECEPTION

CALL TO ORDER BY COUNTY MANAGER SCOTT SAUER

County Manager Sauer called the meeting back to order.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY COMMISSIONER RONALD
“RON” WESSON**

Commissioner Wesson introduced Reverend Gary Cordon of the Victory Temple Church of God in Christ to perform the Invocation.

Commissioner Wesson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

County Manager Sauer stated that according to North Carolina General Statute § 153A-39, “on the first Monday in December of each even-numbered year the Board of Commissioners shall choose one of its members as Chairman for the ensuing year... the Board shall also at that time choose a Vice-Chairman to act in the absence or disability of the chairman.”

County Manager Sauer opened the floor to nominations for Chairman.

Commissioner Bazemore introduced a **MOTION** to nominate Commissioner Ronald “Ron” Wesson as Chairman. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. As there were no other nominations given, the floor was closed to nominations, and the Board voted. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously in support of Commissioner Wesson as Chairman.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Ronald “Ron” Wesson made a **MOTION** to nominate Commissioner Tammy A. Lee as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. As there were no other nominations given, the floor was closed to nominations, and the Board voted. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously in support of Commissioner Lee as Vice Chairman.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Trent thanked the newly elected Commissioners for putting themselves out there as candidates, and that he was excited to move forward with the Board. He also thanked all citizens present for their participation in the recent General Election.

Chairman Wesson welcomed the new Commissioners, and stated that he was blessed to be serving on the Board, and that he would do his absolute best to serve all citizens as fairly as possible.

Vice Chairman Lee stated that she was overwhelmed, but thrilled to now be an official member of the Board, and that she did not want to begin trying to thank all of the individuals responsible

for getting her to this point. She thanked everyone for their support, and stated that in regards to each individual citizen, she wanted to remain “their Commissioner.”

Commissioner White stated that a “house divided cannot stand,” and that unity was a very important principle in regards to tackling “uphill issues.” He stated that he hoped his experience with the Town of Ahoskie would serve him well in County government.

Commissioner Bazemore thanked everyone again for their support, and that the Board would need their continued supports and prayers. She stated that she hoped for Bertie to become a more “progressive County,” and that she would dedicate herself to being “the voice for the voiceless.”

PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time, Chairman Wesson opened the floor to Public Comments.

Norman Cherry of Lewiston-Woodville inquired about the status of the trash and recycling convenience sites contract.

Chairman Wesson stated that no decision had been made yet regarding the convenience sites, but that the deadline was extended for proposals to February 3, 2015. Mr. Wesson also assured all of those present that curbside was no longer being considered by the Board, and that the County was simply looking to receive the best possible contract based on cost.

Additionally, Mr. Norman Cherry asked if the convenience sites would face any type of service disruption in the event of the County awarding the contract to a different vendor.

Chairman Wesson assured all of those present that service would not be disrupted, and that any new vendors would be given the notice needed to have all equipment and materials in place by the end of the current contract date in June 2015.

Dr. Michael Elam, President of Roanoke-Chowan Community College (RCCC), was present to introduce himself to the new members of the Board. He stated that it would always be his goal to assist in building a “better Bertie,” and that he wanted to continue to be an advocate for the County.

Commissioner Lee stated her appreciation for Dr. Elam and for RCCC, and for what they do each day for Bertie County.

In addition, Norman Cherry, also current Interim Director of the Bertie Campus of Martin Community College (MCC) stated that MCC was also available to Bertie County citizens, but that their goal was not to compete with RCCC. He stated that MCC’s goal was to serve in conjunction with the efforts of RCCC to provide quality higher education to the community.

Mr. Tim Bazemore, Sr. spoke in regards to the proposed Manufactured Home Park Ordinance. Mr. Bazemore stated that he did not believe this current ordinance was suitable for approval, and that he felt citizens should be permitted to provide their input.

Chairman Wesson stated that at a previous meeting, the Board decided to send the proposed ordinance back to the Planning Board for additional evaluation. Mr. Wesson continued by saying that the Board recommended that the Planning Board solicit input from the public, and he encouraged Mr. Bazemore to attend an upcoming Planning Board meeting to provide his suggestions.

James Pugh of Lewiston-Woodville approached the Board with his concerns for the under privileged population of the County, and that he felt that the Board should give everyone the opportunity to “be somebody.”

Mayor Dayle Vaughan of Lewiston-Woodville congratulated the new Commissioners, and welcomed them.

Lewiston-Woodville Town Council member, Chris B. Cordon, urged the Board to always “consider West Bertie,” and that although great change has been happening, there was more room for improvement. She also stated that she knew the Board would do a wonderful job.

Ms. Jo Davis Johnson, a newly elected member of the Board of Education expressed her desire for the two Boards to work closely together.

Pastor Gary L. Cordon, Sr. approached the Board again to offer his condolences to John Trent for the passing of his father in law.

There were no other Public Comments.

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2011 HU & 2011 SSH CLOSEOUT – MCDAVID & ASSOCIATES,
MIKE BARNETTE**

Mike Barnette of McDavid & Associates provided the new Board members with a brief summary of the two programs.

The floor was opened to Public Comments, but none were received, and the Public Hearing was closed.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mid-East Commission

After some discussion, Chairman Wesson recommended that Lewis C. Hoggard, III. be considered for re-appointment to the Mid-East Commission.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** as recommended by Chairman Wesson. Vice Chairman Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve minutes for Regular Session 11-24-14

Vice Chairman Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes for Regular Session 11-24-14. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Approve minutes for Closed Session 11-24-14

County Attorney Smith recommended that the Closed Session minutes for 11-24-14 be deferred until Closed Session.

Approve bonds held for Bertie County officials

County Manager Sauer recommended this item for approval.

After some discussion, Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve the bonds held for Bertie County officials. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The bonds approved are as follows:

PUBLIC OFFICIAL	BOND AMOUNT	BOND COMPANY
John Holley, Sheriff	\$25,000.00	Cooper Insurance Agency
Tax Administrator (Position Bond)	\$50,000.00	CNA Surety
Finance Director (Position Bond)	\$50,000.00	CNA Surety
Annie Wilson, Register of Deeds	\$50,000.00	CNA Surety

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORTS

County Manager Sauer covered various housekeeping matters with the Board in regards to upcoming calendar events, vacant Commissioner seats on Boards and Committees, as well as information on the upcoming trainings and seminars for both new and veteran Commissioners.

In addition, County Manger Sauer recommended that the Board consider holding a meeting with all of the County’s Department Heads. It was the consensus of the Board to meet at 4:00pm on December 15th with Department Heads prior to the regular meeting at 7:00pm.

The Board requested that each Department Head present a PowerPoint presentation detailing the current needs and happenings in each of their departments.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

The Commissioners had no further remarks at this time.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

The County Manager gave no remarks at this time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

County Attorney Lloyd Smith stated that it was an honor to serve Bertie County as the County Attorney, and that he would continue to serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Chairman Wesson stated that having Mr. Smith's insight is very important as he has worked for the County for a number of years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Town of Lewiston-Woodville Councilman, Chris B. Cordon, came before the Board once more to thank the County for the addition of the solar farm in the Lewiston area.

Tim Bazemore, Sr. also came before the Board once more regarding more local citizens finding work on construction jobs in the County.

Monica Lassiter of Lewiston-Woodville congratulated the Board, and stated that she would be praying for them.

There were no other Public Comments.

CLOSED SESSION

By request of County Manager Sauer, Commissioner White made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the County Attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege that exists between the attorney and this public body, , and N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of employment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Board shifts into Closed Session.

Vice Chairman Lee made a **MOTION** to return to Open Session. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Vice Chairman Lee made a **MOTION** to approve, but keep Closed Session minutes from 11-24-14 sealed until further notice. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

There was no further discussion.

ADJOURN

Chairman Wesson adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:45pm.

Ronald D. Wesson, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board