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BERTIE COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Bertie County Board of Commissioners signs off on new contract with Republic Services and County achieves an estimated \$538,000 savings for local taxpayers over the next ten years

WINDSOR, NC - On April 30th, 2015 the Bertie County Board of Commissioners took a break from their regular agenda to witness Chairman Ron Wesson's signing of a ten year contract with Republic Services for the continued operation of the County's recycling and solid waste convenience centers. Bertie County's attorney of more than twenty-nine years, Lloyd C. Smith, Jr. stated "the strength of the Board's negotiations and the execution of this contract, represent a signature accomplishment for this Board of Commissioners."

The County Commissioners have rolled back the cost of the convenience centers by five years, and this pricing is locked in until July 1, 2019 according to Smith. Under the new contract, the County will experience a price reduction equal to the annual charges incurred in 2010.

Costs for Bertie taxpayers had previously risen by 50.2 % since 2001

The official vote taken by the Board of Commissioners on March 2, 2015, represents a shift from the fifteen year operating agreement with Waste Industries, dating back to 2001 when the annual cost for the convenience centers was \$330,247. The expense for the taxpayers has grown to almost a half a million dollars per year.

Under the prior contracts adopted by the Board of Commissioners in 2001 and 2006, the County increased Waste Industries' compensation annually using the CPI—consumer price increase, in addition to fuel pricing adjustments. Previous annual increases incurred by the County were capped at 7% with a minimum floor of 2% escalation each year. In the final year of the Waste Industries contract, the annual cost for the County is budgeted at \$496,180 or \$ 41,348 per month which ends June 30, 2015.

Bertie County's negotiations with Republic Services resulted in a ten percent price cut, and a monthly rate of \$36,859 with no increase for the first three (3) years.

Beginning in the fourth year of the new agreement with Republic Services, on July 1, 2019, the annual fixed rate fee increase will be capped at two percent (2%) with no other adjustments or fuel escalation fees allowed to be charged. Based on financial projections, the County is expected to save more than \$538,000 over the ten year contract which begins July 1, 2015.

The Board of Commissioners will continue to focus on making strategic decisions which will positively impact the taxpayers of Bertie County.

Looking forward, the governing body is making plans to negotiate the renewal of the landfill host agreement to be effective in October 2018. This contract with Republic Services for the operation of the regional landfill generates in excess of \$1 million dollars annually for the County's General Fund and helps to offset the property tax burden for our citizens.

Additionally, Republic Services has been a strong corporate partner for the Bertie County community with significant annual contributions to the public schools and the YMCA in Windsor, NC.

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