

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**July 20, 2015**  
**Regular Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00pm inside the Blue Jay Fire Department located at 1653 Indian Woods Road, Windsor, NC 27983. 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  
Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston  
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper  
Information Systems Administrator Joe Wilkes  
Water Superintendent Ricky Spivey  
Cooperative Extension Director Richard Rhodes

Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald was present from the media.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Wesson welcomed all of those present and thanked them for their attendance.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chairman Lee led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

James Pugh of Lewiston-Woodville was present representing Spring Hill Baptist Church and requested that the Board aid him in a way to return the area's name to the original name of Cahaba. He also thanked the Board for continuing to be involved in area conferences as that education assists the Board in making decisions that benefit the entire County.

Chief Robert Cherry of the Blue Jay Fire Department welcomed the Board and thanked them for hosting a meeting in the community of Blue Jay.

Richard Rhodes, Director of Bertie County's Cooperative Extension, came forward to introduce Whitney Watson, Extension Program Assistant. Ms. Watson stated that she was a native of Bertie County that recently returned to the area after receiving her collegiate degrees from East Carolina and was most recently a teacher in the Bertie County Public School System.

Aaron Rascoe of the Indian Woods community brought forward a concern concerning the condition of the first curve from Highway 11 onto Indian Woods Road stating that he sees frequent flooding. He requested additional help from the Department of Transportation to dig the proper ditching so that this area remains safe for cars to travel.

Sanford Vaughan of Indian Woods expressed his concerns regarding the various curves and passing zones on Indian Woods Road. He stated that he often observes erratic and fast moving drivers on that street which present hazards for other drivers especially as it relates to worn out passing strips.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Presentation by Sterling Baker of the NC Department of Transportation**

Sterling Baker, District-I Maintenance Engineer with the NC Department of Transportation, in introduced his staff, and provided an update to the Board regarding the Department's latest activities and future projects for the fiscal year.

Mr. Baker provided a document in the Board's electronic agenda packet that entailed the current funding options for the various regions of the district, as well as discussed the upcoming projects that the Department of Transportation would be investing in during this fiscal year.

Lastly, Mr. Baker responded to the concerns expressed by citizens regarding various places on Indian Woods Road and stated that he would investigate after leaving the meeting.

**Proposal by John Herring of Bertie Correctional Institution regarding a leadership summit with faith based leaders in the County**

John Herring of the Bertie Correctional Institution and Annie Harvey, Supervisor for Adult Corrections for the East Carolina region, was present to request assistance from the Board in reaching leaders in the faith based communities.

Mr. Herring and Ms. Harvey stated that they are very interested in expanding their outreach and partnering with more organizations to provide more services to inmates across the State regarding job placement and other services.

Mr. Herring also submitted a number of paper applications to the Board so that citizens could receive them and begin applying to over 70 vacant positions at the prison.

**Roanoke Electric Cooperative presentation by Marshall Cherry**

Marshall Cherry, Chief Operating Officer of Roanoke Electric Cooperative was present with various members of his staff, and he welcomed Ms. Jammie Sparks of ECC Technologies to the podium to introduce those present to Roanoke Connect.

Ms. Sparks provided a hand out to the Board about the services that would be offered through Roanoke Connect, but ultimately, Roanoke Electric and ECC Technologies would be installing a dark fiber network that could assist local business and citizens with high speed internet service.

The project, when completed, will feature approximately 200 miles of fiber optic infrastructure, half of which will be brand new, and the other will be leased from the existing MCNC fiber. Roanoke Connect will also link up with the statewide MCNC system.

The system will run through 4 counties: Bertie, Gates, Northampton, and Hertford. Construction work will begin in the Ahoskie area of Hertford County in the next several months.

The project is intended to provide infrastructure needed to boost technology led economic development, improved healthcare, education, public safety, and broadband access to more customers.

Additionally, Ms. Sparks stated that access to the network would be through a normal internet service provider like SuddenLink or Century Link, and would not be somehow included in a member's monthly electric bill.

Roanoke Electric's Chief Executive Officer, Cutis Wynn, also addressed the Board and shared his commitment and enthusiasm for these projects.

### **Agapé Community Health Clinic presentation by Carol Taylor**

Ms. Carol Taylor of the Agapé Community Health Clinic presented a PowerPoint presentation detailing the clinic's dental services.

Ms. Taylor reviewed the various services offered by the clinic including general checkups, crowns and fillings, full or partial dentures, braces, etc.

She also briefly described the sliding payment scale as a system designed to work with lower income citizens to receive affordable care based on the amount of income they receive monthly.

Additionally, Ms. Taylor expressed her desire for partnership and even an additional location of another clinic in Bertie County.

The Board thanked Ms. Taylor for the presentation and commended her for her efforts in offering affordable dental services to all of those in Eastern North Carolina.

### **Economic Development Update by Steve Biggs**

Economic Development Director, Steve Biggs, updated the Board regarding the latest movements with solar farms in the area.

He stated that First Light Solar of Asheville, NC was expected to secure permits from the Bertie County Planning and Inspections Department to begin construction of a new solar farm within the County.

Mr. Biggs also announced that Jet Ski, canoe, kayak, and pontoon boat rentals were now available at Scotch Hall Preserve.

Additionally, he discussed the continued discussions with Family Dollar, a developer, and the Town of Aulander in secured a location in that community.

Lastly, Mr. Biggs introduced consultant Jim Walton who is a project partner for the Board's recently initiated marketing strategy project.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

### **JCPC Board**

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to re-appoint Lisa Mizelle to the JCPC Board. Vice Chairman Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### **Economic Development Commission**

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to re-appoint Alan Mizelle as well as to appoint Patricia Ferguson and Kervin Spivey to the Economic Development Commission pending any recommendations made to the Board by the County's marketing firm, Creative Consulting. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Accept Register of Deeds Fees Report – June 2015**

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the Register of Deeds Fees Report for June 2015. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### **Accept Tax Release Journal – June 2015**

Vice Chairman Lee made a **MOTION** to approve Tax Release Journal for June 2015. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### **Approve minutes for regular sessions 6-1-15 and 6-15-15**

County Manager Sauer recommended this item for approval.

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes for regular sessions 6-1-15 and 6-15-15. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

#### **Approve Closed Session minutes for 6-1-15 and 7-1-15**

This item was deferred.

#### **Approve minutes for budget work session 6-18-15**

County Manager Sauer recommended this item for approval.

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the budget work session minutes for 6-18-15. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

#### **Approve minutes for Special Meeting 7-1-15**

County Manager Sauer recommended this item for approval.

Commissioner White made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes for Special Meeting 7-1-15. Vice Chairman Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

#### **Tax Settlement Reports for 2014 and 2015**

County Manager Sauer recommended this item for approval.

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the Tax Settlement Reports for 2014 and 2015. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

#### **FYI – Tax Department Collections as of May 2015**

Vice Chairman Lee made a **MOTION** to receive the Tax Department Collections as of May 2015. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

#### **2014-2015 Insolvent Tax Resolution**

County Manager Sauer recommended this item for approval.

Commissioner White made a **MOTION** to approve the 2014-2015 Insolvent Tax Resolution. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### **Charge of Tax Administrator for the collection of FY2015-2016 Tax Levy**

County Manager Sauer recommended this item for approval.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to charge the Tax Administrator with the collection of the 2015-2016 Tax Levy. Vice Chairman Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### **Offer to purchase parcels**

The Board discussed an offer that Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea, recently received for 3 different parcels. The offer totaled \$3,000.

After some discussion, the Board instructed Mr. Rhea to reject the \$3,000 offer and present a counter offer to the interested individual.

Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** for the Board to reject the \$3,000 offer but to give authority to Mr. Rhea to supply a counter offer. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### **Approve FY 2015-2016 Salary Schedule and Assignment of Job Classifications and Grades as incorporated in the FY 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance in preparation for annual submission of pay plan to State Personnel**

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve the FY 2015-2016 Salary Schedule and Assignment of Job Classifications and Grades as incorporated in the FY 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance in preparation for annual submission of pay plan to State Personnel. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### **Budget Amendment – FY 2014-2015 carryover for Economic Development marketing contract in the amount of \$71,100 previous approved on May 18, 2015 and other project adjustments – Good Shepherd Food Pantry roof replacement, and Council on Aging Food Service Contract for Congregate Nutrition and Home Delivered Meals**

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve Budget Amendment #16-01 including FY 2014-2015 carryover funds in the amount of \$71,000 for the economic development contract, acceptance of \$2,500 contribution for roof replacement at Good Shepherd Food Pantry, and the approval of the Council on Aging Food Service Contract for Congregate Nutrition and Home

Delivered Meals. Commissioner White **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Budget Amendment reads as follows:

| <b>BUDGET AMENDMENT</b>  |           |          |                 |           |
|--|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|
|  |           | # 16-01  |                 |           |
|  | INCREASE  |          |                 | INCREASE  |
| 10-0025-4431-26  | \$ 7,500  |          | 10-4310-5499-98 | \$ 7,500  |
| TO SETUP BUDGET FOR GRANT - VIDANT - SHERIFF EQUIPMENT (AED'S)   |           |          |                 |           |
|  | INCREASE  |          |                 | INCREASE  |
| 10-0025-4495-11  | \$ 1,000  |          | 10-4950-5399-37 | \$ 1,000  |
| TO INCREASE BUDGET TO MATCH ACTUAL GRANT AMOUNT RECEIVED<br>4-H COOKING CAMP                             |           |          |                 |           |
|  | INCREASE  |          |                 | INCREASE  |
| 10-0025-4495-08  | \$ 500    |          | 10-4950-5399-32 | \$ 500    |
| TO INCREASE BUDGET TO MATCH ACTUAL GRANT AMOUNT RECEIVED<br>EAT SMART-MOVE MORE-WEIGH LESS               |           |          |                 |           |
|  | DECREASE  |          |                 | DECREASE  |
| 10-0025-4495-07  | \$ 2,000  |          | 10-4950-5399-30 | \$ 2,000  |
| TO ADJUST BUDGET TO ACTUAL GRANT AMOUNT RECEIVED - EFNEP PROGRAM   |           |          |                 |           |
|  | INCREASE  |          |                 | INCREASE  |
| 10-4920-5399-00  | \$ 71,100 | ECON DEV | 10-0090-4991-99 | \$ 71,100 |
| TO CARRY FORWARD ALLOCATED STRATEGIC INITIATIVE MONEY<br>SETUP CONTRACTED SERVICES (CREATIVE CONSULTING) |           |          |                 |           |
|  | INCREASE  |          |                 | INCREASE  |
| 10-0050-4848-11  | \$ 2,500  |          | 10-4190-5580-00 | \$ 2,500  |
| DONATION FROM FOOD BANK OF ALBEMARLE<br>DESIGNATED FOR FOOD PANTRY ROOF REPAIRS                          |           |          |                 |           |
| APPROVED / /2014   |           |          |                 |           |

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

**Discuss revised proposed resolution presented by Garry Terry to support further study regarding the potential impacts**

The Board briefly discussed this item and County Manager Sauer read the resolution into the record.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve the resolution as presented. Vice Chairman Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Resolution reads as follows:



**BERTIE COUNTY**  
106 DUNDEE STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 530  
WINDSOR, NORTH CAROLINA 27983  
(252) 794-5300  
FAX: (252) 794-5327  
WWW.CO.BERTIE.NC.US

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
RONALD "RON" WESSON, Chairman  
TAMMY A. LEE, Vice-Chairman  
JOHN TRENT  
ERNESTINE (BYRD) BAZEMORE  
STEWART WHITE

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FURTHER STUDY REGARDING THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF OFFSHORE DRILLING FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH CAROLINA'S COASTAL WATERS**

**WHEREAS**, Bertie County is located in northeastern North Carolina, approximately seventy-five miles west of the Outer Banks; and

**WHEREAS**, Bertie County is comprised of fertile agricultural and timber land in the Coastal Plains, and the area is drained by the Cashie, Chowan and Roanoke Rivers, which flow into the coastal waters of the Albemarle Sound; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bertie County Board of Commissioners, as the duly elected governing body has made public commitments to improve agribusiness, to promote new alternative energy projects, to protect our natural resources for the enjoyment of adventure tourism activities, and to enhance waterfront development, recreation and tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners strives to create job opportunities and attract capital investment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners desires to support regional economic development strategies benefiting our neighbors in northeastern North Carolina, with infrastructure expansion, transportation improvements and expanded commercial opportunities, and

**WHEREAS**, Bertie County looks to its State leadership and Federal delegation in the United States Congress for bipartisan cooperation to achieve a prosperous economy for North Carolina citizens through advancements in technology for energy production and protection of our Coastal resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Bertie County Board of Commissioners recognizes the need for continued study of our State's potential for job creation and new investment opportunities through examination of seismic data, geological and geophysical analysis, and biological impacts available in the exploration of offshore oil and gas exploration; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Bertie County Board of Commissioners supports efforts to seek such offshore resource development based on scientific data, with the mutual goals of protecting our State's natural resources and expanding economic development opportunities, which will benefit all citizens of northeastern North Carolina.

Adopted this the 20th day of July, 2015.

Ronald D. Wesson, Chairman  
Bertie County Board of Commissioners

  
Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board

**Discuss the status of the latest draft of the Manufactured Home Park Ordinance as requested on May 18, 2015**

After some discussion, the Board came to a consensus to table this matter until the Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners could meet jointly to discuss certain concerns.

**Review cost estimate for basketball court project**

County Manager Sauer updated the Board on the latest efforts to build a basketball court at the Bertie County Parks and Recreation Complex.

Mr. Sauer stated that most cost estimates had been submitted but that the Parks and Recreation Department was waiting on a couple of more quotes in order to present a full figure to the Board for consideration.

No action was needed on this item and more information will be shared upon its availability.

**Discuss Cooperative Extension amendment to Memorandum of Agreement with NC State University regarding employee pay status**

After some discussion, the Board came to a consensus to hold off approving this item until further explanation was given provided, and the County Attorney has the opportunity to review this matter.

**Request to lease space in DRC – CADA of NC, Inc.**

County Manager Sauer reported that CADA of NC, Inc. was looking to relocate its Windsor NCWorks office to the DRC Building on Granville Street. Due to funding cuts, the Board stated that they would move forward in working with CADA of NC, Inc. to fulfill this request, and lease this space effective October 1, 2015.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner Trent provided an update to all of those present regarding the latest renovations at the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail. He stated that the replacement of the roof was half way completed, and that painting and sewage work was due to begin in the coming weeks.

Commissioner Bazemore announced that she and some of her fellow Commissioners would be in Raleigh the next day at a meeting hosted by Senator Harry Brown of Onslow County. She also thanked the Blue Jay Fire Department for their hospitality and the great turn out at tonight's meeting.

Vice Chairman Lee presented a concern she received from a citizen regarding the Board to support a resolution to then be sent to the Governor about allowing servicemen and women to carry a sidearm while on North Carolina military bases and armories.

The Board concurred that they would look into and consider such resolution at a future meeting.

Vice Chairman Lee also stated that if anyone is interested in a beaver bounty program to please contact their local Cooperative Extension Office.

Commissioner White reiterated Commissioner Bazemore's sentiments about the hospitality and turn out at the Blue Jay Fire Department.

Chairman Wesson personally thanked County Manager Sauer and congratulated him on his 2 year anniversary with the County. Chairman Wesson thanked Mr. Sauer for his dedicated service and that the Board as a whole is looking forward to the future.

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS**

County Manager Sauer inquired about the general feeling among the Board about a new date for a Commissioner's planning session as he had heard mixed reviews about a date previously discussed.

After some discussion, the Board requested to meet for an all-day planning session at the Roanoke-Cashie River Center on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS**

The Assistant County Attorney gave no remarks at this time.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED**

James Pugh of Lewiston-Woodville came before the Board to thank them for their continued support and efforts, and stated that he did not feel it would be detrimental to raise County taxes as long as it was providing additional, needed services to the County and its citizens.

Robert Cherry, Chief of the Blue Jay Fire Department, thanked the public for their participation in the meeting tonight, and stated to keep being involved as the Board of Commissioners is their local governing body that needs public input to succeed.

**ADJOURN**

Chairman Wesson adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:30PM.

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Ronald D. Wesson, Chairman

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Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board