

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**January 5, 2016**  
**Town Hall Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a Town Hall meeting at 7:00pm at Perdue Farms located at 3539 Governors Road, Lewiston-Woodville, 27849. 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  
Water Superintendent Ricky Spivey  
Utility Customer Service Manager Connie Coburn

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Trent called the meeting to order, and thanked those present for their attendance.

**INVOCATION**

Pastor Gary Cordon gave the Invocation.

**WATER SYSTEM UPDATES BY COUNTY MANAGER SCOTT SAUER**

Chairman Trent thanked those for attending the meeting during such cold temperatures, and stated that the purpose of tonight’s meeting was for citizens to have the opportunity to share their questions and concerns about the recent water system transition. He then asked County Manager Sauer to provide a brief summary of the recent transition from the County standpoint.

Mr. Sauer briefly detailed the process that was completed in collaboration with the Town of Lewiston-Woodville and discussed the similarities between this transition and that of which the Town of Roxobel and the South Windsor Water Association completed in the previous year.

Additionally, Mr. Sauer discussed the various reasons water usage could increase including leaking pipes and running toilets, as well as old, worn out water meters.

Using visual aids, Mr. Sauer mentioned that the County had recently received 2 inquiries from Lewiston-Woodville customers about the amount being charged on their monthly water bills, and how it does not coincide with their normal usage. Upon further investigation, Mr. Sauer reported that the reason behind the increased usage turned out to be worn out water meters.

The meters have since been replaced, and water bills for those customers have begun to stabilize.

County Manager Sauer also reiterated that customers in the Town of Lewiston-Woodville were not only receiving a County bill for water, but the sewage and garbage charges that the Town imposes have also been included on the County water bills each month.

At this time, the public was given the opportunity to ask questions and share their concerns.

After discussing specific water usage cases, suggestions were made by the public for the County to place a drop box inside the Lewiston Town Hall so that customers could conveniently submit their fulfilled water bills.

Another suggestion was for the County to switch from a post card style bill to a bill and extra envelope system.

Lastly, it was suggested that the County consider changing the water bill due date until sometime after the first week of each month as some citizens, mainly senior citizens, aren't finding enough time between receiving their monthly income checks and being able to turn in their water bills before the County's late fee is applied.

The Board assured the public that these suggestions would be considered, and that they were also in the process of adding a debit and credit method at the County Water Department instead of just cash and check payments.

Also, the Board encouraged all citizens to please report any concerns they have about their water bills as soon as they are noticed so that a solution can be found as efficiently as possible.

There were no other questions for the Board.

**ADJOURN**

Chairman Trent adjourned the meeting at 7:45PM.

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John Trent, Chairman

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Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board