

Windsor, North Carolina
November 7, 2016
Work Session

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting inside 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
Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston
Finance Officer William Roberson
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper
Cooperative Extension Director Billy Barrow

No members of the media were present.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Wesson led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

WORK SESSION

Discuss various facility clean-up/restoration issues from effects of two recent flooding events with George Saad of Care Master Clean a) Lawrence Memorial Library, b) Cooperative Extension Building, c) EMS Station 1

Betty Massey of the Albemarle Regional Library was present to discuss the current state of Lawrence Memorial Library in Windsor, as well as to discuss the Library's long term goals for a new facility.

Ms. Massey stated that Lawrence Memorial Library sustained major damage during both Tropical Storm Julia and Hurricane Matthew.

Mike Millis of Care Master was also present to confirm that besides the anchored shelving used for book storage, the floor sustained significant damage which would require tearing out of the existing floor and the sub flooring underneath. He reported that the building has significantly dried out according to his company's standards, but that the facility was still in need of a good, final cleaning.

Ms. Massey asked if the Board could assist Lawrence Memorial Library in finding a temporary location for continuity of services such as computer use, a limited selection of books, and checking out of periodicals. She inquired if the Board knew of any vacant buildings or even empty classrooms that were not currently being utilized here in Windsor or the surrounding area.

She stated that it is the goal and priority of the Library to continue service as soon as possible, but also shared that her Board of Trustees was also interested in a new, permanent home for Lawrence Memorial, ideally outside of the flood plain.

At this time, she introduced some of her Board of Trustees including Marion Lee, Irene Walker, Librarian Nancy Hughes, and Finance Officer/Treasurer Larry Joyner.

The Board briefly discussed ideas of permanent locations including a classroom at Bertie's MCC Campus, the old cafeteria at the Board of Education's Central Services Complex, and an underutilized classroom at Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy.

The suggestion was also made by representatives from the Library System to "join up" with another County or State office in need of new office space which could increase the chances of additional grant funding.

At this time, County Manager Sauer introduced Bertie County Cooperative Extension Director, Mr. William "Billy" Barrow.

Mr. Barrow thanked the Board for its quick action in securing he and his staff a new, temporary office space in the old Sheriff's Office Building.

He stated that his staff is looking forward to the next steps and noted that he would also be interested in a joint office effort.

It was also reported that the Cooperative Extension Building also received significant flooring damage, and the work to replace the sub flooring was needed before staff could resume working inside.

Also, County Manager Sauer reported that plans for a temporary EMS Station 1 were still in motion for the old 300 Building at the Bertie Early College campus.

Lastly, County Manager Sauer asked for Planning Director, Traci White, to provide a draft of a proposed substantial damage evaluation letter that would be used to notify citizens of their status for insurance and FEMA funding purposes.

The Board concurred and there was a consensus that the letter was approved for use when the evaluations were completed.

Ms. White also briefly touched on the potential of a “buy out” program for Bertie residents. She mentioned that citizens who choose to move forward with elevating their homes are typically ineligible from a buy-out, but it is at FEMA’s discretion.

Overtime Pay – Bertie County DSS Staff – Emergency Food Stamps due to Hurricane Matthew; review of initial response and recovery costs

Finance Officer, William Roberson, provided a financial review of the bills he had received so far due to flood damage to County property. He also discussed the emergency food stamp program that was administered at Bertie DSS which resulted in staff working during unscheduled, “off” hours.

There was a brief discussion about how to approach the over time or compensatory time factor for those employees, and whether or not funding was available to cover the employee wages.

The Board concurred that they would wait to see what funding would be dispersed from the State or FEMA before making a decision on the County level.

Chairman Trent continued to encourage all DSS staff to maintain their records of hours worked and miles driven during the disaster response.

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the budget amendment presented by Finance Officer William Roberson in the amount of \$225,000 for Tropical Storm Julia and \$25,000 for Hurricane Matthew from appropriated fund balance. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Charters of Freedom Update – Commissioner Tammy Lee

Commissioner Lee provided a brief update on the Charters of Freedom monument initiative. She stated that locations have been discussed, and the one that is most desirable is a bench area at the main courthouse entrance.

Work Session Date

The Board set a date for a work session at 10:00 AM on Monday, November 21st at this location with the Board's regular meeting to begin as scheduled afterwards at 7:00 PM.

Veteran's Day 2016 – Resolution

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the Veteran's Day 2016 resolution. Vice Chairman Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The resolution reads as follows:

A PROCLAMATION HONORING VETERANS DAY 2016

WHEREAS, it has been custom to commemorate November 11th, the anniversary of the end of World War I, by paying tribute to the heroes who wore our Nation's uniforms and fought for our freedom; and

WHEREAS, each time we have come under attack, these men and women have risen to defend our Country; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 1928 Congress passed a resolution calling for the observance of November 11th as Veterans Day and later approved on May 13, 1938 that the eleventh day of November should be a legal holiday to honor our Nation's Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining our freedom and way of life; and

WHEREAS, tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces to protect our freedom; and

WHEREAS, Bertie County is home to approximately 2,300 Veterans; and

WHEREAS, our Veterans are brave and selfless individuals who, when called to duty, willingly put themselves in harm's way to defend the lives and liberties of others; and

WHEREAS, their patriotism and devotion to our County, State and Nation can never fail to inspire us; and

WHEREAS, Bertie County citizens and all those across our nation must strive to ensure that those who have served our Country are honored.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bertie County Board of Commissioners proclaims the 11th day of November as Veterans Day and calls upon all Bertie County citizens to join in this worthy observance by honoring our Veterans who have fought for our freedom and rights.

Adopted this the 7th day of November, 2016 by the Bertie County Board of Commissioners.

Surplus Auction Wrap-Up – November 5, 2016

Assistant County Attorney, Jonathan Huddleston, requested that the Board approve the surplus auction sale prices received on November 5, 2016.

The list of surplus properties reads as follows:

Buyer: Adnize Cherry
Address of property: 103 Elm St., Aulander, NC
High Bid: \$100.00

Buyer: William T. James
Address of property: 2337 NC 45 N, Colerain, NC
High Bid: \$1,500.00

Buyer: William T. James
Address of property: 105 and 107 Oak Rd., Windsor, NC
High Bid: \$400.00

Buyer: Leodegario T. Samarita
Address of property: 754 Governors Rd., Windsor, NC
High Bid: \$400.00

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the auction sale prices received on November 5, 2016. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

NCACC Update Video – November 2016

The Commissioners reviewed the latest NCACC Update Video.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board