

**Windsor, North Carolina
February 1, 2016
Regular Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00pm 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
County Attorney Lloyd Smith
Finance Officer William Roberson
Information Systems Administrator Scott Pearce
Planning & Inspections Director Traci White
Maintenance Superintendent Anthony Rascoe
Water Superintendent Ricky Spivey
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs
Parks and Recreation Director Donna Mizelle
Council on Aging Director Venita Thompson
Department of Social Services Director Linda Speller

Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald and Leslie Beachboard of the Bertie Ledger-Advance were present from the media.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Norman Cherry, in his capacity as Board Chairman of the Bertie Rural Health Clinic, voiced his gratitude for the County's recent letter of support for the Rural Health Clinic's federal grant application.

Ms. Josephine Aiken of Republic Services introduced Mr. Rob Purvis as the new manager of the regional landfill.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Jodie Rhea, Tax Administrator presented the delinquent taxpayer report effective January 20, 2016 as required by NC General Statutes.

Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea, presented the following report:

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 105-369, attached is a report of the total amount of unpaid taxes for the current year for "REAL" property only as of January 20, 2016.

At the present time, we have 53 accounts in bankruptcy, 70 accounts in foreclosure, 83 accounts on a payment plan and 38 accounts under wage garnishments. During the month of January, we send a request to numerous employers requesting a list of their employees that live in Bertie County. We then process those lists to issue wage garnishments, so the number of garnishments will increase over the next couple of months.

Today, under NCGS 105-369(s), the Board will issue an Order for me to advertise the delinquent 2015 taxes. Once this order is given, I must mail a notice to each delinquent taxpayer no less than 30 days before the actual advertisement. Right now we are planning on advertising the end of March or first of April.

Within the next couple of weeks, I will be sending you the month end reports for the month of January that will show all, both real and personal, delinquent taxes.

Regarding Business Personal Property Audits, as of January 14, 2016, there are 257 accounts that have been or currently under review. 5 are under appeal with a potential discovery value of \$138,000,000 which would generate approximately \$1.1 million in taxes alone. However, that number may change depending on the outcome of the appeals.

28 accounts have been found to be compliant – no discovery

As of January 14, 2016, 134 accounts have been completed, with a total discovery value of \$65,500,000 which equals \$526,000 in taxes and \$155,000 in penalties for a total of \$681,000. Of that total, \$534,000 has been paid. \$115,600 paid to County Tax Services to date.

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to accept the report as well as to issue an order for the Tax Collector to advertise the delinquent 2015 taxes. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Mr. Bryant Buck, Executive Director for the Mid-East Commission addressed the Board regarding the upcoming transportation planning cycle and the role of the Peanut Belt Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

Mr. Buck explained that the County is represented by Economic Development Director Steve Biggs, but that the County has no representation on the voting committee that approves the priorities for the RPO serving Halifax, Northampton, Hertford and Bertie counties.

After much discussion Commissioner Lee volunteered to serve on this committee.

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to nominate Commissioner Lee to the RPO Board. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Bertie Martin Regional Jail Board

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to appoint Ms. Dianne Bazemore to the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail Board pending submission of an application. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon review by Chairman Trent, Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety as presented. Commissioner White **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. **Minutes** for Regular Session 1-21-16, Planning Session 1-28-16
3. **Fees Report** – February 2016
4. **CADA’s annual Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) application** for FY2016-2017
5. **Resolution** celebrating that 150th Anniversary of Cedar Landing Missionary Baptist Church

DISCUSSION

A discussion to review any outstanding issues from the Planning Session on January 28th was reviewed during today's 2:00PM Work Session.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

Mr. Sauer referred to Finance Officer William Roberson for presentation of Budget Amendment 16-08 covering NC Property Tax Commission preparation and legal fees, plus fees and discoveries for the recent billing for business personal property verification conducted by CTS.

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve Budget Amendment 16-08 and Commissioner White **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

COUNTY ATTORNEYS REPORT

County Attorney Lloyd Smith followed up on earlier recommendations from the County Manger regarding potential occupancy of the old school bus garage.

Mr. Smith indicated that he and the County Manager inspected the building on January 29th and that its condition is much worse than he had anticipated and that until it is approved by the Chief Building Inspector, no occupancy should be allowed due to the obvious safety and liability issues.

He further suggested that having a structural engineer's opinion and certification is also recommended.

Mr. Smith said that the only reasonable use for the building is the locked storage for seized vehicles when such vehicles must be securely stored by the Sheriff.

ADJOURN

Chairman Trent adjourned the meeting at 4:35PM.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board