

**Windsor, North Carolina
October 2, 2017
REGULAR SESSION**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting inside the Commissioners Room, 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
County Attorney Lloyd Smith
Finance Officer William Roberson
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs
Register of Deeds Annie Wilson
Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea
Cooperative Extension Director Billy Barrow
Sheriff John Holley

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 White led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Del Burns, Interim Superintendent of Bertie County Public Schools (BCPS), officially introduced himself to the Board, and stated that he was thrilled to be in Bertie County. He discussed his priority concerns for the state of the BCPS which included the lack of approved budget for the current fiscal year, as well as the organization structure of the school system which included the recent reduction in force. In regards to the unapproved budget, he assured the Board that he and his staff are working feverishly to present an adequate, statutorily sound budget to the Board of Education at their next meeting on October 10th.

The Commissioners thanked Dr. Del Burns for his candor and stated they looked forward to working with him in the coming months.

APPOINTMENTS

CDBG-DR Public Hearing #1 – prior to submittal of a grant application for low-moderate income individuals who were displaced by Hurricane Matthew

Chris Hilbert of Holland Consulting was present for the first of two required public hearings from the CDBR Disaster Recovery grant that the County is looking to apply for which would assist dislocated, low to middle income citizens with housing needs that are due to Hurricane Matthew.

Chairman Trent opened the public hearing and solicited citizen questions or feedback.

Vivian Clarke of Windsor inquired if this program would be in collaboration with the Town of Windsor. Allen Castelloe, Town Administrator, and Mayor James Hoggard, were present to represent the Town of Windsor. Both Mr. Castelloe and Mayor Hoggard confirmed that this was a Town and County effort.

There were no other public comments.

Chairmen Trent closed the public hearing. The next public hearing date will be held on Monday, October 16, 2017 at the Town of Kelford Community Building at 7:00 PM.

The CDBG-DR application is due on October 20th.

Updates from Dr. Barbara Doll of NCSU on the Cashie River Basin Feasibility Study

Dr. Barbara Doll of NCSU presented a PowerPoint presentation on the current findings of a Cashie River Basin Feasibility Study.

Dr. Doll presented various scenarios the Board could consider to reduce the flooding seen in downtown Windsor in future rain and storm events. Some of the suggestions ranged from reinstating various mill bonds in various areas of the County, additional bridges/extending of the current King Street Bridge, and upgrades made to existing drainage systems in the Windsor area.

The study has not yet been completed, but Dr. Doll stated that all efforts have been met before scheduled deadlines. A final report will be submitted by her office in late January 2018.

The Board asked various questions including the possibility of increased water impoundment outside of Windsor in order to prevent further flooding in downtown Windsor. Dr. Doll stated that the goal of this study was to prevent flooding in all areas of the County, and not just to move the flooding concerns to other areas.

Commissioner Wesson encouraged Dr. Doll to take a look at the area by Powell & Stokes as well as the Roquist Pocosin community near Highway 308 and to see if the remaining time in the study could be spent addressing those particular areas.

**Middle Income Housing Initiative for Teachers – Windsor Township Development
Commissioner, represented by Commissioner Wesson**

Commissioner Wesson briefly introduced this initiative to the public present, as well as to BCPS Interim Superintendent, Dr. Del Burns.

Additionally, Mr. Wesson provided the Board with a brief updated regarding the responses received during the public forums held in recent weeks about this project.

Commissioner Wesson mentioned that the potential locations were discussed among the public, and after some discussion among the members of the Windsor Township Development Commission, the most desirable location appears to be a 6-acre tract of land on Harrell Heights Road located just off of Highway 17, which is owned by the Town of Windsor.

Additionally, Commissioner Wesson reported that the loan application was currently being completed, and if approved, the potential grand opening would take place in May 2019. The complex would contain 24 total units with 2 bedroom/2-bathrooms, and rent would be approximately \$650 a month for teachers, law enforcement, and other government employees.

Dr. Del Burns returned to the podium to state that he thought this project would be beneficial to Bertie County as there is a high rate of turnover among teachers within BCPS. He requested that he be considered in the future for any upcoming meetings, or that he receive updates as they become available.

Holland Planning Consultants will provide an update on various recovery grant applications

Chris Hilbert of Holland Planning Consultants returned to the podium to discuss the latest updates on various recovery grant applications that will be submitted on behalf of the County.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

There were no Board appointments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon review by Chairman Trent, Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety. Commissioner Wesson and Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. **Minutes** – Work Session 9-18-17, Regular Session 9-18-17
2. **Fees Report** – Register of Deeds, September 2017
4. **Budget Amendments** – various
5. **Resolution** – Rural Impact Poverty Resolution
6. **General-Purpose Funding** – Senior Center
7. **Memorandum** – Agreement; dynamics of Bertie County’s Coastal Drainage System: Feasibility Study of Change and Resilience, Dr. Stanley Riggs, Chair, NC LOW

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Review of proposals in response to the RFP for tax revaluation

Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea, submitted the three proposals received during the RFP process for the 2020 County tax revaluation. He also directed the Commissioners to spreadsheet that provided a useful cost comparison.

The Board agreed that a work session would need to be held on October 10th at 10:00 AM here in Windsor to discuss the proposals and next steps.

The Board also asked various questions of the Tax Administrator.

Calendar Reminders/Event Updates

- a. **Work Session – Commissioners Room, 10/10 at 10am**
- b. **Commissioners Meeting – Kelford, 10/16 at 7pm**
- c. **Design proposal presentations for joint-use facility, 10/17 at 9am**
- d. **Community Town Hall – BHS Auditorium, 10/21/17 at 10am**

County Manager Sauer reminded the Board of the dates listed above, and answered any questions for clarification.

Lewiston Woodville's request for Building Inspector to inspect within Town limits per State Building Code

The Board briefly discussed a proposed resolution drafted by the Legal Team to have the County Building Inspector, by request only, to visit various residences in the Town of Lewiston to assess their livability, and their potential risk of being condemned. No action was taken on this item.

County Attorney Smith advised the Board regarding the 1985 Ordinance creating the County Inspections Department which mandates the County's acceptance of a Town's request if the appropriate resolution form is submitted to the County.

Set date for 2017 Employee Appreciation Luncheon – Thursday, December 7, 2017

The Board confirmed the date of Thursday, December 7th for the Bertie County Employee Appreciation Luncheon. This date also coincides with the Town of Windsor Christmas Parade.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

There County Manager gave no remarks at this time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

The County Attorney gave no remarks at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments during this section.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Wesson

Commissioner Wesson reported that the Mid-East Commission (also serves as the Treasurer) is working with the Roanoke Electric Membership Corporation to obtain a potential \$250K grant to Bertie County for the expansion of broadband services to additional citizens across the County.

Additionally, Mr. Wesson discussed the Thinking Big For Small People Pre-K Conference in Chapel Hill (also attended by Vice Chairman Bazemore) which featured Bertie County as one of eight counties that are making exceptional progress on "K-3" Early Childhood initiatives. Better Beginnings for Bertie Children was identified and discussed as a significant and exportable initiative to improve Early Childhood Development in other counties.

Vice Chairman Bazemore

Vice Chairman Bazemore briefly discussed the latest conferences she had attended including a grant writing seminar, a webinar regarding health and human services, as well as the 150th Anniversary of Conocanary Missionary Baptist Church. Lastly, she mentioned that she and Commissioner Wesson recently represented Bertie County at the Thinking Big For Small People Pre-K workshop in Chapel Hill.

In conclusion, she mentioned a concern she had received from the employees currently working at the Lewiston-Woodville convenience trash site. She was informed by one of the employees that the site has not had running water in over 2 years, but that Republic was just made aware of the issue within the last 2 months.

Chairman Trent

Chairman Trent gave no remarks at this time.

Commissioner Lee

Commissioner Lee alerted the Board to an event in New Bern. A dental clinic will be held in the coming weeks (October 27-28) which will allow citizens to receive dental cleanings and some other dental services, free of charge.

She also reminded the Board of the Aulander Peanut Festival being held this Saturday, October 7th from 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM as well as the Annual Roxobel Fish Fry Fundraiser beginning at 4:00 PM on the same day.

Lastly, Mrs. Lee let all of those present know that Dolly's Café in Colerain held its grand opening this past weekend, and that Café 45 in Colerain was now serving dinner Monday-Saturday nights.

Commissioner White

Commissioner White reported that he had received good feedback from citizens about the newly placed satellite Sheriff's Office in Powellsville, and also discussed the CADA Board meeting he recently attended.

RECESS

Chairman Trent **RECESSED** this meeting until Tuesday, October 10th at 10:00 AM in this location which is a work session to discuss the Town Hall meeting scheduled for October 21st.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board