

Windsor, North Carolina
June 19, 2017
Regular Meeting

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
Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston
Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea
HR and Risk Management Director Carolyn Fornes
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper
Finance Officer William Roberson

Leslie Beachboard of the Bertie-Ledger Advance and was 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

Vice Chairman Bazemore led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Roxana White and Aleta Tootle of Telamon were present to reintroduce the Board to the employment services that Telamon provides. The organization targets temporary farm workers, and assists them with classroom opportunities, and on the job training. Telamon also connects these workers with GED programs.

Ms. White and Ms. Tootle encouraged the Board to consider partnering with their organization in order for more temporary workers to find permanent employment in Bertie County. It was mentioned that Telamon could provide 100% salary reimbursement for any worker that participate in on the job training for the development of new skills, and permanent job placement elsewhere. Additionally, Telmon could provide 75% salary reimbursement for any worker that can work towards a permanent position with Bertie County.

Commissioner Wesson thanked Ms. White and Ms. Tootle for their presentation, and recommended that they provide a presentation to the Mid-East Commission Board in the near future to assist in their networking and outreach efforts.

There were no other public comments.

APPOINTMENTS

Presentation of tax appeal for White Oak Medical Transport by Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea

County Manager Sauer deferred to Tax Administrators, Jodie Rhea.

Mr. Rhea explained that he had been in contact with Ricky White of White Oak Medical Transport regarding his desire for the Board to forgive the penalties imposed on business personal property claim.

Mr. White explained that a former employee was handling the financial side of the transport service, but was not informing him about the conversations and correspondences they were receiving from the County regarding this matter.

He stated that he did not feel he should be responsible for the penalties as he was not aware he was incurring any.

After a brief discussion, the Board expressed their desire for consistency when it comes to business personal property penalties, and stated that in every case they've heard thus far, penalties had not been forgiven.

The Board empathized with Mr. White, but came to the same consensus in this case to not forgive the tax penalties.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. **Minutes** – Regular Session 6-5-17, Closed Session 6-5-17, Work Session 6-5-17 and 6-8-17
2. **Agreement** – Interim Healthcare-Morris Group, Inc. for senior home care services
3. **Grantee Acknowledgments and Agreements** – The Golden Leaf Foundation
3. **Budget Amendments** – various
4. **Release Journal** – May 2017

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Dedication Plaques – Courthouse, new Sheriff's Office

The Board reviewed the latest dedication plaque draft for the Courthouse. County Manager Sauer also noted that he was working with the Sheriff's Office on designing their dedication plaque as well.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to move forward with the latest draft of dedication plaque for the Courthouse. Vice Chairman Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Review contract with NCSU for Cashie River Basin Drainage feasibility study with Dr. Barbara Doll

After a brief discussion, and the recommendation of a few minor revisions, Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve this contract with the recommended revisions. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**Review sublease and Memorandum of Lease with Albemarle Regional Library
prior to beginning operations at temporary library site**

Assistant County Attorney, Jonathan Huddleston, briefly discussed the sublease and Memorandum of Lease with Albemarle Regional Library.

The Memorandum of Lease was not yet ready for approval, but the sublease was ready for the Board's approval, if they had no questions.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the sublease with Albemarle Regional Library. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**Review of documentation for the transfer of water system assets from both
Lewiston-Woodville and Roxobel**

County Manager Sauer stated that the transfer of assets has yet to be completed, but these documents were being presented simply for discussion, and not approval at this time.

Review of latest draft – Shared Leave Policy revisions

County Manager Sauer also noted that a copy of the latest Shared Leave Policy was included with the Board's agenda packet. Revisions were made based on comments from the Finance Office and after consulting the State of NC Shared Leave Policy.

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the newly revised Shared Leave Policy. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

The County Manager gave no report at this time.

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

The Assistant County Attorney gave no report at this time.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Wesson

Commissioner Wesson discussed various bills that were being presented in the State Legislature. The bill's purposes included Medicaid, opioid addiction and education, Economic Development incentives, and behavioral health. He also commended the work recently completed in South Windsor by NCDOT near Roquest Creek and Woodard Road.

Vice Chairman Bazemore

Vice Chairman Bazemore reported that a mental health kiosk had successfully been placed inside Vidant Bertie Hospital, and is now accessible to the public. She also updated the Board on House Bill 630 which, if passed, would have regionalized Social Services, and presented various challenges for citizens to enroll and receive benefits.

Chairman Trent

Chairman Trent reported that the County had received the \$500,000 PARTF grant for the Blue Jay Recreation Park as of Friday, June 16. He commended his fellow Commissioners and County Manager for moving quickly to make this grant a possibility for Bertie.

He also discussed some ditches in Lewiston-Woodville (Lewiston Garage) that would need attention from NCDOT, and asked that the County Manager and Clerk draft a letter to NCDOT regarding the latest with the 4-way stop that was supposed to be implemented in late spring at the intersection of Highway 11 and NC 308.

Commissioner Lee

Commissioner Lee discussed that she participated in the latest Veterans Benefits Fair in Williamston.

She also attended the latest meeting of the Rural Health Alliance. At this meeting, the discussion of recruiting another dentist to Bertie County was addressed, and the Alliance may be open to assembling an incentive package to any dentist looking to expand into Bertie, or to start a private dental practice.

Commissioner White

Commissioner White gave no reports at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this time.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Trent requested a brief Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations. The action approves the signing of an economic development contract or commitment, or the action authorizing the payment of economic development expenditures, shall be taken in an open session.

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Session. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

RECESS

Chairman Trent **RECESSED** this meeting until tomorrow, June 20th in lieu of Governor Cooper's visit to Bertie County, and a joint meeting that will take place in this location with quorum present.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board