

**Windsor, North Carolina
September 18, 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: Stewart White, District II
Tammy A. Lee, District III
John Trent, District IV
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: Ronald “Ron” Wesson, District I

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

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/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Lee led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Forester, Dean of Finance and Facilities at RCCC, and currently serving as Interim President, assured the Board that the College is running at “full force,” and thanked the Commissioners for the funding they received in this year’s County budget. Mr. Forester also discussed the latest enrollment numbers in the EMS Cadet program.

APPOINTMENTS

Scholarship award and check presentation for Sandrika Freeman by Vice Chairman Ernestine Bazemore on behalf of the NC Association of Black County Officials

Vice Chairman Bazemore recognized Miss Sandrika Freeman, represented today by her parents Ricky and Gloria Freeman, on her outstanding academic achievement. Miss Freeman was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to UNC Chapel Hill from the North Carolina Association of Black County Officials. At this time, a large check was presented to Mr. Ricky and Gloria Freeman and media photos were taken.

Mr. Freeman thanked the Board on behalf of his daughter, and stated that it was good to be back in Bertie County after he previously served as Bertie County Emergency Management Director.

Roanoke-Chowan Community College update on search for new President

Mr. Andre Lassiter, Chairman of the RCCC Board of Trustees, was present to update the Commissioners on the latest search for a new RCCC President. Mr. Lassiter stated that he cannot reveal the chosen candidate's name yet, but an official announcement will be made in the next couple of weeks once all negotiations and hiring have been completed. He also took this opportunity to thank the Board for supplying some of the needed funding to replace the current roof on one of the RCCC campus buildings.

Vice Chairman Bazemore inquired about the reasoning of all of the turnover of the President position in the last couple of years.

Mr. Lassiter could not elaborate, but did say that it is difficult keeping good talent in this area which is a challenge for a lot of different entities in Hertford and Bertie Counties.

**Poverty initiative – review program concept and proposed timetable by former
Commissioner Patricia Ferguson**

Patricia Ferguson came forward to present his proposal to the Board about the creation of a Bertie County Poverty Commission.

Ms. Ferguson requested that the following information be included in the record:

To: Bertie County Board of Commissioners
Date: September 18, 2017
Subject: Present Overview of a Work Plan to Establish the Bertie County Poverty Board



Requested Action: Adopt a general plan of work – in the form of recommendations- to establish the Bertie County Poverty Commission with a launch date of January 2018 (see recommendations for work plan below).

Board Sample Motion: I move we adopt the general plan of work recommendations 1-9 - presented to the board to establish the Bertie County Poverty Commission with a launch date of January 2018.

WORK PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL: CREATE A SUSTAINABLE PLATFORM FOR TACKLING POVERTY

RECOMMENDATION 1: CREATION OF THE COMMISSION

To formally create the poverty commission by motion.

RECOMMENDATION 2: NAME OF COMMISSION

Adopt by motion an official name of the commission. Recommended is the Bertie County Commission on Poverty.

BASIC PREMISE: The name of the board should clearly reflect the intent of the work. Targeting both personal and public infrastructure needs as well as best-practices and gold standards in the field of poverty alleviation, is foundational to our highest mission.

RECOMMENDATION 3: LEADERSHIP

Patricia Ferguson to lead the work establishing the commission.

RECOMMENDATION 4: BOARD COMPOSITION

9-11 board members from different community-based sectors

RECOMMENDATION 5: ANTI-POVERTY DECLARATIONS

Approve concept of anti-poverty declarations. Statements that highlight or proclaim general beliefs about the need to build secure and sustainable economies by building both human and public infrastructure and capacity.

- 1) Human Infrastructure and Capacity
- 2) Public Infrastructure and Capacity
- 3) Proclaim month/day 2018 as a county-wide day to showcase and celebrate work on ending poverty as we know it in the county.

RECOMMENDATION 6: GENERAL PLAN OF WORK

Adopt a general plan of work of the Bertie County Commission on Poverty:

- 1) TARGETED – Goal to direct action to a very specific purpose which is the reduction of poverty rates in Bertie County and to promote long-term anti-poverty work.
- 2) IMMEDIATE - Goal to identify current needs of the targeted population that can be met and are consistent with the mission of the Bertie County Commission on Poverty.
- 3) LONG-TERM – Goal to identify, understand and respect data sets, personal witness statements, “paper” work on poverty, public policy measures and cultivating an image that rebrands public perception of the poor and provides more realistic – empowering and enabling, characterizations.
- 4) LEVERAGED – Goal to lead in building networks of caring by compiling a list of relevant stakeholders to provide needed perspective, resources and commitment to the work of the Bertie County Commission on Poverty.
- 5) LUMINARY– Goal to adopt an “influential” list of advisors as stakeholders. They lead by experience, education and expertise in *lighting* the way for long-term anti-poverty work.
 - A. LOCAL: Identify local and regional list of advisors as stakeholders.
 - B. STATE AND NATIONAL: Identify state and national advisors as stakeholder.
- 6) TEMPERANT – Goal to adopt as a guiding principle SOBRIETY. The work of the Bertie County Commission on Poverty is a LONG-TERM -sobering undertaking, that requires compassionate and skilled leadership with patience and wisdom, and love for people. The

gravity of the work of poverty will require thoughtful consideration of actions before they are taken, being reminded that the work is a needed work that is long-term.

7) **EMBOLDEN OPPORTUNITY**- Goal is to create opportunities for empowering and enabling across income thresholds; working to alleviate structures that impede the progress of reducing poverty; and model the value of giving back at all income levels, reaching forward to help others and in turn, future generations do the same.

RECOMMENDATION 7: “PROJECTS ON THE GO”

Authorize the presentation of “PROJECTS ON THE GO”.

“PROJECTS ON THE GO” – Goal is to: 1) infuse the work of the Commission with “THINK TANK” capabilities – GREEN PAPER FIELDS – providing research and advocacy for new and emerging work around poverty consistent with the work of the Commission and; 2) presenting the outcomes of this critical work, to the board of commissioners for consideration i.e. policy change, adoption of new policy, consideration of a project, review of a project, amendment to a project etc.; 3) quarterly presentation of “GREEN PAPER FIELDS” – emerging work on poverty, by Luminaries and other stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION 8: ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Access to APPROPRIATE, RELEVANT, TIMELY information consistent with the work of the Commission as the board deems appropriate. Access to appropriate, relevant and timely information is critical to the work of the Commission. The following is requested:

1. Access to board minutes – waive fee.
2. Access to ad hoc committee meeting minutes – add to database of members.
3. Authorize access to attend board, committee and other commission meetings – communication to committee chairs.
4. Appoint Commission chair/member/representative to appropriate committees – communication to committee chairs.
5. Access to other appropriate and relevant information consistent with the work of the Commission.

RECOMMENDATION 8: ONGOING ACTIONS TO ESTABLISH THE COMMISSION

Work with county leadership to identify other actions necessary to establish and launch the Bertie County Commission on poverty by January 18, 2018.



After some discussion, Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the poverty initiative and the draft program outline as a “work in progress.” Chairman Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

OPIOID program outreach initiative with Albemarle Regional Health Services

Battle Betts, Health Director, and Ashley Stoop, Outreach Coordinator, of Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) gave a short presentation about the latest initiatives being used and explored to fight the OPIOID crisis in Eastern NC. They discussed their many outreach opportunities and events including partnerships with the Bertie County Public School System and the drug take back programs.

In addition, they reported the overdose rates being reported at VIDANT Bertie. The data is below:

Table 1: Heroin overdoses treated at VIDANT Bertie Hospital

Year	Number treated
2015	6
2016	10
2017 (as of July 1)	4

Lastly, Mr. Betts and Ms. Stoop reported the latest figures with EMS personnel having to administer Naloxone (also known as Narcan) to patients facing a heroin overdose. The data is below:

Table 1: Heroin overdoses treated by Bertie County EMS

Year	Number treated
2015	38
2016	49
2017 (as of July 1)	26

The Board thanked Mr. Betts and Ms. Stoop for their presentation, and asked for the Mid-East Commission to assist in an OPIOID prevention Town Hall in the coming months so that more outreach and education could occur here in Bertie County.

Holland Consulting introduces the Disaster Recovery Grant Act and funding requirements and HMPG updates

Chris Hilbert of Holland Consulting was present to reiterate information previously received about a freeze in FEMA funding for Hurricane Matthew victims' due to the unprecedented damage brought on by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Before the freeze, \$1 million was obligated to Bertie County for 17 homes in need of storm related repairs and income was a factor in each of those applications. Mr. Hilbert reported that additional applications can be submitted to Planning Director, Traci White.

Additionally, a buyout/elevation program for Bertie County was obligated \$6 million by FEMA prior to the freeze, but these funds are on held right now per the latest FEMA announcement.

Library Update by Jennifer Patterson, Albemarle Regional Library Director, and Nancy Hughes, Branch Manager

Jennifer Patterson, Albemarle Regional Library Director, was present to provide an update about the latest renovations being completed in the new, temporary library space inside the Windsor Food Lion Shopping Center.

Ms. Patterson reported that new carpet, tiling, and painting had been completed, and the space itself had been reconfigures appropriately. She also stated that the library system would be advertising for two (2) part time positions in the coming weeks. She also discussed a \$50,000 grant that was received from the Library Services and Technology Act to replace some damaged computers and other items from both Tropical Storm Julia and Hurricane Matthew.

Lastly, Ms. Patterson presented some requested she had received about honorably retiring the current name of "Lawrence Memorial Public Library," to the "Bertie County Public Library." She requested the Boards opinions on this potential name change.

After some discussion, and no objections, Commissioner White made a **MOTION** to honorably retire the current name of Lawrence Memorial Public Library, and rename it as the Bertie County Public Library. Vice Chairman Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Nursing Home/Adult Care CAC Board

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to reappoint Anthony Peele, as well as to formally accept the resignations of Gwen Bond Williams and Lillian Faulk from the Nursing Home/Adult Care CAC Board. Vice Chairman Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. **Minutes** – Work Session 8-7-17, Regular Session 8-7-17, Closed Session 8-7-17, Governor Visit 6-20-17
2. **Fees Report** – Register of Deeds, August 2017
4. **Budget Amendments** – various
5. **2018 Meeting Schedule** – Board of Commissioners/State Holidays
6. **General-Purpose Funding** – Senior Center
7. **Tax Release Journal** –
8. **Contract** – MAXIMUS, perform annual cost allocation reporting for DSS
9. **Resolutions** - submission of grant applications authorization by the Board of Commissioners on February 6, 2017, Water District I and III

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF APPLICANT

- WHEREAS, The Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 and the North Carolina the Water Infrastructure Act of 2005 (NCGS 159G) have authorized the making of loans and grants to aid eligible units of government in financing the cost of construction of (state whether a wastewater treatment works, wastewater collection system, stream restoration, stormwater treatment, drinking water treatment works, and/or drinking water distribution system or other "green" project), and
- WHEREAS, **Bertie County Water District I** have need for and intends to prepare an Asset Inventory and Assessment of the water system currently under the District's operations and control, and
- WHEREAS, **Bertie County Water District I** have authorized Green Engineering, PLLC, on their behalf, to prepare and submit to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Infrastructure an application for funding for an Asset Inventory and Assessment of the County's water system, and
- WHEREAS, **Bertie County Water District I** intends to request state grant assistance for the project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

That **Bertie County Water District I**, the **Applicant**, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State (loan or grant) award.

That the **Applicant** will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the governing body of the **Applicant** agrees to include in the loan agreement a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the (unit of government) to make scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from the (unit of government) any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

That the **Applicant** will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That **Scott Sauer, County Manager** is the **Authorized Official**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the **Applicant** with the State of North Carolina for a (loan or grant) to aid in the construction of the project described above.

That the **Authorized Official**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project: to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the **Applicant** has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the 18th day of September 2017 at Bertie County, North Carolina.



(Signature of Chief Executive Officer)

Chairman

(Title)

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF APPLICANT

WHEREAS, The Federal Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 and the North Carolina the Water Infrastructure Act of 2005 (NCGS 159G) have authorized the making of loans and grants to aid eligible units of government in financing the cost of construction of (state whether a wastewater treatment works, wastewater collection system, stream restoration, stormwater treatment, drinking water treatment works, and/or drinking water distribution system or other "green" project), and

WHEREAS, **Bertie County Water District III** have need for and intends to prepare an Asset Inventory and Assessment of the water system currently under the District's operations and control, and

WHEREAS, **Bertie County Water District III** have authorized Green Engineering, PLLC, on their behalf, to prepare and submit to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Infrastructure an application for funding for an Asset Inventory and Assessment of the County's water system, and

WHEREAS, **Bertie County Water District III** intends to request state grant assistance for the project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE (GOVERNING BODY) OF THE (UNIT OF GOVERNMENT):

That **Bertie County Water District III**, the **Applicant**, will arrange financing for all remaining costs of the project, if approved for a State (loan or grant) award.

That the **Applicant** will adopt and place into effect on or before completion of the project a schedule of fees and charges and other available funds which will provide adequate funds for proper operation, maintenance, and administration of the system and the repayment of all principal and interest on the debt.

That the governing body of the **Applicant** agrees to include in the loan agreement a provision authorizing the State Treasurer, upon failure of the (unit of government) to make scheduled repayment of the loan, to withhold from the (unit of government) any State funds that would otherwise be distributed to the local government unit in an amount sufficient to pay all sums then due and payable to the State as a repayment of the loan.

That the **Applicant** will provide for efficient operation and maintenance of the project on completion of construction thereof.

That **Scott Sauer, County Manager** is the **Authorized Official**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the **Applicant** with the State of North Carolina for a (loan or grant) to aid in the construction of the project described above.

That the **Authorized Official**, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with such application or the project: to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required in connection with the application.

That the **Applicant** has substantially complied or will substantially comply with all Federal, State, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances applicable to the project and to Federal and State grants and loans pertaining thereto.

Adopted this the 18th day of September, 2017 in Bertie County, North Carolina.



(Signature of Chief Executive Officer)

Chairman

(Title)

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Middle Income Housing Initiative – deferred

This item was deferred. An update will be provided at an upcoming Board meeting.

September 30th Town Hall meeting – review proposed presentation items, schedule, and potential speakers and program focus

This Town Hall has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 21st at 10:00 AM inside the Bertie High School Auditorium. More information will be shared soon.

Commissioner Lee requested that her regrets for this event be put on the record as she has a previous engagements.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

The County Manager gave no remarks at this time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

County Attorney, Lloyd Smith, briefly discussed the latest court hearing regarding the Kelford solar energy company. Mr. Smith stated that the case has been deferred, and that he does not expect the County's appeal will be accepted. A new court date will be announced soon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments during this section.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Vice Chairman Bazemore

Vice Chairman Bazemore made the Commissioners aware of Trillium's Reinvestment Plan that was just released.

She also mentioned that House Bill 280 has been passed by the State legislator which would no longer prosecute 16 and 17-year old's as adults, and instead, those cases would be prosecuted in juvenile courts.

She also discussed the current successes of the programs being operated by the JCPC Board this year, and the individuals that have been helped by these programs thus far this year.

Lastly, she announced that she had a Department of Social Services meeting to attend tomorrow, 9/19.

Chairman Trent

Chairman Trent announced that a school recreation agreement had been reached with the Windsor YMCA to provide youth and adult recreation inside the 600 Building at the old Bertie High School. The agreement has recreation opportunities starting in approximately 2 weeks.

Commissioner Lee

Commissioner Lee stated that she was honored to attend the funeral of DPS Deputy Secretary, Gwen Norville this past weekend as a County representative. She recommended that a scholarship be formed in her name to assist in supporting students looking to studying in the public safety field.

She reminded all of those present that the Greater Wynn's Grove Community Day was this Saturday, 9/23 beginning at 10:00 AM.

Lastly, she stated how lucky and blessed she felt to be able to go on an Alaskan vacation, and highly recommended the trip to others if they are ever afforded the opportunity.

Commissioner White

Commissioner White discussed what he learned at a recent algae bloom conference. He stated that coastal communities are dealing with this same issue, and hydrologists are currently working to find remedies to keep water ways and rivers free of the vegetation.

ADJOURN

Chairman Trent **ADJOURNED** this meeting at 5:15 PM.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board