

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**October 7, 2019**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners convened their regular meeting today inside the Windsor Community Building, 201 South Queen Street, Windsor, NC. The following members were present or absent:

Present: Ronald "Ron" Wesson, District I  
Greg Atkins, District II  
Tammy A. Lee, District III  
John Trent, District IV  
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: None

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer  
Assistant County Manager Juan Vaughan, II  
County Attorney Lloyd Smith  
Finance Director William Roberson  
Planning Director Traci White  
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs  
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper

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

**CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairman Trent called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION**

Commissioner Lee gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dr. Otis Smallwood, Superintendent of Bertie County Schools, thanked the Board for supporting the public school system. He believes the financial support provided will help with the retention of good schoolteachers and school staff.

## **APPOINTMENTS and Reports**

### **(1) VIDANT Bertie Hospital Update by President Brian Harvill**

President Brian Harvill stated that as a result of constantly evaluating ways to provide better services, an EastCare helicopter will be stationed at Vidant Bertie Hospital. He confirmed that the ground crew would continue to operate and the helicopter would be soon be available at Vidant Bertie Hospital.

### **(2) Presentation of 2020 Revaluation Schedule of Values for Approval by Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea**

The public hearing for the 2020 Revaluation of Schedule of Values was held on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> and no concerns were brought forth.

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** approve the 2020 Revaluation Schedule of Values. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

### **(3) Sheriff's Update on School Security Initiative**

Sheriff John Holley and Chief Deputy Kenny Perry explained to the board that lockboxes have been installed on the campuses of our public schools. These lockboxes contain a master key that law enforcement officers can access during lockdowns or events of emergency, such as active shooter events. Lockboxes have also be installed at the Clerk's Office and Register of Deeds departments.

### **(4) Presentation of Impassable Roads by Emergency Management Director Mitch Cooper and Chief Deputy Kenny Perry**

Based on the definition of "impassable roads" as defined by the Safety Road & Maintenance Ordinance, 28 roads have been assessed and the following roads have been deemed impassable: Ted Cherry Lane, Nancy Boulevard, Tina Lane and David Drive. Letters have been written to the property owners requesting that said roads are brought into compliance with the County

ordinance. All questions regarding compliance of roads with the ordinance should be directed to the department of Emergency Management.

**(5) Republic Services' Proposed One-Year Extension for Landfill Host Agreement by County Attorney Lloyd Smith**

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the Fifth Amendment to Amended and Restated Agreement for Development, Use and Operation of New Landfill and Recycling Facility. Vice-Chairman Atkins **SECONDED** the motion. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

**Department of Social Services Board**

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to appoint Dr. John Hill to the Department of Social Services Board. Chairman Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**Region Q Workforce Development Board**

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to appoint Dr. Otis Smallwood and Mike Dail to the Region Q Workforce Development Board. Chairman Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approve Minutes for Work Session 8-27-19, 9-3-19
2. Approve Minutes for Regular Session 9-3-19
3. Approve Minutes for Closed Session 9-3-19
4. Approve Minutes for Emergency Session 9-3-19
5. Approve Minutes for Planning Session 9-16-19
6. Approve Minutes for Public Hearing 9-30-19
7. Register of Deeds Fees Report September 2019
8. Budget Amendments

9. Tax Release Journal August 2019
10. ABC Funds Report for FY 2018-2019 Prepared by Trillium Health Resources
11. ARHS 2018 Annual Child Fatality Prevention Report to the County Commissioners, Board of Health
12. FY2019-2020 Senior Center General Purpose Agreement
13. Approve 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting and State Holiday Schedule

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve items 1 through 10 of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve item 11 of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve item 12 of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The board requested for the 2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting and State Holiday Schedule be revised to alleviate having two meetings on the same day.

### **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

#### **Timmons Group Request to Submit NCDOT Petition for Road Addition**

Planning Director Traci White stated she has spoken with District Engineer Michael Hill with NCDOT and recommended moving forward with the submission of the petition to begin the process.

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** for the County to submit an NCDOT petition for road additions of Chowan Shores Drive, Owens Drive, and Small Circle at the Chowan Shore subdivision. Chairman Atkins **SECONDED** the motion. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

## **Town of Colerain Historic District Nomination for National Registry of Historic Places**

Planning Director Traci White stated she was informed that efforts to nominate Colerain as a historic district is an endeavor taken on by a group of citizens, not the town of Colerain.

Chairman Trent stated that he has spoken with someone as well and informed the individual to let the Board know if their assistance is needed with this endeavor.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

**Junior Commissioner Joyner** stated that he was glad to be back and appreciates how safe the schools are. He also inquired about the local food pantry having to turn food away due to lack of space. Commissioner Bazemore stated that concern should be directed to the Board of Education.

**Commissioner Bazemore** announced the Bertie Tracks event is taking place November 14-22; the best times to join are between 12:00 and 1:00 PM or 5:00 and 6:00 PM. She also congratulated RaShawnda T. Murphy, daughter of Reginald and Vernice Murphy and graduate of Bertie High School, on her graduation from NCCU School of Law and passing the BAR Exam on her first attempt. She will be sworn in by Chief Justice Cheri Beasley on October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Wake County Courthouse.

**Commissioner Wesson** thanked Dr. Otis Smallwood for voicing the concern of not paying schoolteachers supplements. We were one of four counties out of the 100 NC counties that did not provide supplements. We are now, thanks to the County and School Board, changing that and hopefully we will be able to attract and retain schoolteachers in Bertie County. He also thanked Dr. Smallwood for a new initiative. Teachers and school staff are able to donate through payroll deduction to United Way to feed 195 needy children in our community on the weekends.

**Chairman Trent** stated the quarter-cent sales tax referendum will be coming up and everyone needs to support it. If passed, this money would go directly to the school board. The new 911 Center for Bertie, Martin, and Perquimans County opened in Martin County. It will serve as a backup center for us in times of disaster. The viber communication system that the school system has does not work inside our public school buildings and it needs to be addressed. The Commissioners Room is being updated and should be completed by November.

**Commissioner Lee** shared her experience with the Albemarle Foodbank in Powellsville recently serving 91 families. Families are served on the first Tuesday of each month at 11:00 AM. The Aulander Peanut Festival is this coming Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Lee further stated that she will serve as Chair of the Justice of Public Safety Steering Committee for the state

association and Sub-Committee Chair for Law Enforcement for the national association and will be happy to take any items that law enforcement officers have back to the committees.

**Commissioner Atkins** had no reports at this time.

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS**

The County Manager had no remarks at this time.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS**

The County Attorney had no remarks at this time.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments at this time.

### **AJOURN**

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to **RECESS** the meeting until the Board's joint meeting with the Town of Windsor at 4:00 PM on October 14, 2019. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

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John Trent, Chairman

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Assistant Manager, Juan Vaughan, II