

**Windsor, North Carolina
September 3, 2019
REGULAR SESSION**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for an emergency meeting today inside the Windsor Community Building, 201 S. Queen Street, Windsor, NC. The following members were present or absent:

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

Absent: Tammy A. Lee, District III

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer
Assistant County Manager Juan Vaughan, II.
Clerk to the Board Sarah Tinkham
Finance Director William Roberson
Assistant to the County Manager Dominique Walker
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper
Parks and Recreation Director Donna Mizelle
Planning & Inspections Director Traci White

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

CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Trent called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Vice Chairman Atkins asked Norman Cherry to deliver the Invocation, and Mr. Atkins also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Bill Blake of United Way was present to inquire if the County could give employees the opportunity to donate to the United Way via payroll deductions. Commissioner Wesson noted the United Way's commitment to non-profits in this area, and thanked him for the United Way's support.

At this time, County Manager Sauer gave a special presentation in honor of Dominique Walker who is currently serving her last day as Assistant to the County Manager today.

APPOINTMENTS & REPORTS

(1) Parks and Recreation Update by Parks and Recreation Director, Donna Mizelle

Parks and Recreation Director, Donna Mizelle, and Casey Owens of the Bertie County YMCA were both present to discuss the football program, and new season underway. The football league currently has 3 teams – 20 participants in the 7-8-year-old group, 22 kids in the 9-10-year-old group, and 27 in the 11-12-year-old age group. Ms. Mizelle thanked all of her coaching staff for their work since last season with the conditioning camps.

The program has seen significant growth since last year.

(2) Formal introduction of Superintendent Dr. Otis Smallwood, Bertie County Public Schools

Dr. Otis Smallwood was present introduce himself to the Board. He also wanted to request additional funding for the school district. The request was submitted in a letter that was delivered to the County at the end of August.

Dr. Smallwood discussed his desire to implement a 3% supplement for all certified staff at the Bertie County Public School system. If possible, he requested that \$151,000 be allocated to the school system which would provide one half of what is needed for the 3%, across the board supplement.

He emphasized how essential it is to maintain licensed teachers, and to compete with as many counties in the region as possible to ensure Bertie County students have what they need to succeed.

Commissioner Bazemore encouraged the Board to invest in the staff and students here in Bertie County, and that to attract industries, a qualified workforce is important.

Commissioner Wesson discussed the multiple voter referendum for quarter-cent sales tax that the County has made in several recent elections which could have funded supplements in the past. He discussed his concern with the County pushing the initiative, and that he believed the initiative could have passed if only the entire BCPS staff voted in favor.

(3) Impassable Roads Report – re: Road Safety & Maintenance Ordinance by Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper

This item was deferred due to Hurricane Dorian preparations.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Albemarle Regional Library

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to reappoint Irene Walker to the Albemarle Regional Library Board. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes for Regular Session 8-5-19, Work Session 8-5-19, Closed Session 8-5-19
Commissioner Bazemore noted a correction.
2. Fees Report – Register of Deeds – August 2019
3. Budget Amendments
4. AIA Grant Application – Water District I

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve Consent Item#1 pending the amendments submitted. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve Consent Items 2-6. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

DISCUSSION

Discuss combining Fire Marshal duties with the new building inspector position for Fire Prevention Code Enforcement

The County Manager briefly summarized the discussions on this topic during the Work Session, and the Board will continue to move forward with review of this proposal before making this decision.

Review proposed 2020 meeting schedule and proposed calendar for Board meetings held in various community locations, plus consider adoption of the 2020 holiday schedule to coincide with the State calendar for office closings.

The Board would like to see the addition of Merry Hill to schedule, as well as to allow Commissioners meeting to still move forward on Planning Session days.

There was a consensus of the Board to do so, and make the desired changes.

Confirmation of 2019 Employee Appreciation Luncheon date – Thursday, December 5th

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to confirm the 2019 Employee Appreciation Luncheon date on Thursday, December 5th. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Agenda Preview – Work Session, September 16, 2019

The County Manager noted the draft work session agenda, and let the Board know that more items will most likely be added.

Other Items

Water Superintendent, Ricky Spivey, reported an issue that had arisen on Rupert Earl Road near Hardentown. He noted his concern regarding the lack of available customers, and that the water extension is estimated to cost \$47,000.

Commissioner Wesson expressed that he would like to see a policy or metric in place that could assist with requests like this in the future.

The Board discussed the area surrounding this residence and how the extension could be justified with only one citizen living on the road. The Board would like to further discuss this matter at an upcoming work session.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Wesson noted that the community college ranking list had been released, and that the Martin Community College was ranked number four (4) in the State. The Windsor campus Administrator, Norman Cherry, was in the audience to receive this information.

Chairman Trent and Vice Chairman Atkins did not have any reports.

Commissioner Bazemore announced that she had attended the NCACC Annual Conference in Greensboro, and that this was one of the best conferences she had attended. She also discussed the opportunity for the County, school system, and other local agencies to partner together to improve life here in Bertie. She noted the importance of partnerships that promote career readiness and meeting the needs of today's job market.

County Manager's Reports

County Manager Sauer gave no remarks at this time.

Assistant County Manager's Reports

The Assistant County Manager gave no remarks at this time.

County Attorney's Reports

The County Attorney gave no remarks at this time.

Public Comments

A member of the Bertie County High School Alumni Association was present to announce the 50th anniversary of Bertie County High School. All graduates, teachers, current and former employees, and supporters are welcome to attend the parade event on Saturday, October 19 at 10:00am. Invitations and applications were submitted to the Board. Bands, performers, and a banquet are all planned for the event.

Commissioner Wesson suggested that she reach out to the Church of Evening Light as they are also hosting an event on the same day.

Tarsha Dudley was present to support Dr. Otis Smallwood, and also introduced the Interim Roanoke-Chowan Community College Interim President, Dr. Audre Levy.

Dominique Walker, Assistant to the County Manager, thanked the Board for their support over the last year and a half. She discussed her definition of public service, and was glad to be exposed to public service through county government for the very first time.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to **ADJOURN** the meeting. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Chairman **ADJOURNED** the meeting at approximately 7:00 PM.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah Tinkham, Clerk to the Board