

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**March 26, 2020**  
**EMERGENCY MEETING**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for an EMERGENCY MEETING today inside the Commissioners Room, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was hosted partially in person, and partially via Zoom (conference call). The following members were present or absent:

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

Absent: None

Special Partners Present (Zoom): Windsor Mayor James Hoggard  
Windsor Town Administrator Allen Castelloe

Staff Present: Interim County Manager Juan Vaughan, II.  
County Attorney Lloyd Smith  
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper  
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs

Staff Present (Zoom): Clerk to the Board Sarah Tinkham  
Register of Deeds Annie Wilson  
Board of Elections Sheila Holloman

Cal Bryant of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald and Thadd White of the Bertie-Ledger Advance were present from the media via Zoom.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wesson called the Work Session to order.

He welcomed the limited staff present and thanked those on the phone via Zoom for their participation. He acknowledged the current threat of COVID-19 to public health throughout the country. Commissioner John Trent was recognized as one of the participants via phone, and noted that the Board would be checking in with Commissioner Trent throughout today's discussion.

### **INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Powellsville Mayor, James Peele also gave the Invocation.

### **COVID-19 UPDATES**

Chairman Wesson noted that the purpose of today's meeting was to reach consensus about how the County should move forward with a Stay at Home Order.

Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper, briefly updated the Board about the latest steps being taken to ensure that emergency responders are equipped with the needed personal protective equipment.

Mr. Cooper also noted that the County should continue to rely on Albemarle Regional Health Services for additional updates, and that everyone should be encouraged to stay at home if they are sick.

Chair Wesson thanked the Bertie County COVID-19 Taskforce for all of their hard work and that when at all possible, he would like to see the County continue to stay ahead of this pandemic.

At this time, Ashley Stoop of Albemarle Regional Health Services was present via Zoom, as well as Executive Director Battle Betts. She noted that several types of coronavirus exist, but that the most dangerous known version of this virus is called COVID-19.

She briefly reviewed confirmed cases on both the worldwide, state, and local levels. At this time, Bertie County reportedly has three (3) cases. She encouraged social distancing and hand washing efforts.

She reminded the public about the symptoms, ways to help prevent infection, those most at risk for complications, and advised that testing kits are being reserved for the most serious of cases. A positive test result would not change method of treatment as there are no proven treatments for COVID-19.

At this time, Chair Wesson asked for Mr. Cooper to discuss the stay at home orders being considered in other counties including Pitt and Mecklenburg.

Mr. Cooper stated that these orders ask for citizens to stay at home unless they are working, in need of supplies, looking to buy food, or need other essential services. The orders have also enforced that no gathering of over 10 people are permitted.

Chair Wesson noted that communication was key for an order like this as it could be easily misunderstood.

Commissioner Trent discussed his concerns with how Perdue is handling transporting their employees from outside of the County in the Lewiston-Woodville plant.

There was a brief discussion about having the Interim County Manager, Juan Vaughan, II to secure that written policy in case any additional recommendations need to be made to protect the health of all employees and citizens at large.

Mr. Cooper noted that all EMS employees are being properly screened with temperature checks before clocking in as well as at other various times during each shift.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board came to a consensus that County staff and legal team should begin adapting the Mecklenburg stay at home order for use in Bertie County. The Board would further consider a stay at home order at their meeting on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Board also noted that they would pass a stay at home order on a local level for all unincorporated area of Bertie County if Governor Cooper has not done so already by March 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **ADJOURN**

Chair Wesson adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30 AM.

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Ronald Wesson, Chairman

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Sarah Tinkham, Clerk to the Board