

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**December 4, 2023**  
**COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a regularly scheduled meeting today at 6:00PM inside the Commissioners Room, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. Because of 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, District I Michael White, District II John Trent, District IV Ronald “Ron” Roberson, District V
Absent:	Corey Balance, Sr. District III (Zoom)
Staff Present:	County Manager Juan Vaughan, II Assistant County Manager David Scarborough County Attorney Lloyd Smith
Staff Present (Zoom):	Clerk to the Board LaShonda Cartwright Information Technology Director Joe Wilkes

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Wesson called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pastor Jason Duvall with Carolina Rebuilding Ministry gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN PRESIDED**  
**BY COUNTY MANAGER JUAN VAUGHAN, II**

Commissioner Ronald Roberson **nominated** Commissioner John Trent to be Chairman of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. The nomination was **seconded** by Commissioner Ronald Wesson.

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to close the nominations.

Commissioner Roberson – yes  
Commissioner Trent -yes  
Commissioner Wesson – yes  
Commissioner White – yes

The **MOTION PASSED** for Commissioner Trent to become Chairman of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners with a **4-0 vote**.

### **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Commissioner Trent **nominated** Commissioner Roberson to become Vice-Chair of the Board of Bertie County Commissioners. The nomination was **seconded** by Commissioner Wesson.

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to close the nominations.

Commissioner Roberson – yes  
Commissioner Trent -yes  
Commissioner Wesson – yes  
Commissioner White – yes

The **MOTION PASSED** for Commissioner Roberson to become Vice-Chair of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners with a **4-0 vote**.

### **5-MINUTE RECESS**

The meeting recessed for 5 minutes and reconvened at 6:10 pm.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS**

#### **Commissioner Roberson**

Commissioner Roberson asked for a moment of silence for a fellow commissioner and friend Dr. James West that passed.

Commissioner Roberson then congratulated the Bertie High School football team for making it to the second play-offs.

Commissioner Wesson

Commissioner Wesson thanked his fellow Board members for allowing him to serve as chairman for another year. He then stated that he would not be seeking re-election.

Commissioner White

No comments.

Commissioner Trent

Commissioner Trent thanked Commissioner Wesson for serving as chairman and he then thanked his fellow commissioners. He thanked the Board for putting him in the position to serve as chairman another year.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)**

Rachel Bellis -PETA

Rachel came before the Board to speak on an animal cruelty case in reference to a dog named King. She stated that King was not being properly taken care of. Ms. Bellis asked the Board to start taking the animal cruelty complaints seriously.

The Board acknowledged Rachel's concerns.

**REPORTS & APPOINTMENTS (A)**

1. Update by Jason Duvall, Carolina Rebuilding Ministry

Mr. Duvall thanked the Board for allowing Carolina Rebuilding Ministry the opportunity speak before them at the meeting. Mr. Duvall extended his heart felt gratitude to the Board for their unwavering support of Carolina Rebuilding Ministry.

Mr. Duvall stated that the work that Carolina Rebuilding Ministry does is about creating a better foundation for tomorrow.

Chris Nelson the Site Manager/Volunteer Coordinator for Carolina Rebuilding Ministry stated that from September until now CRM has hosted 32 teams. Mr. Nelson asked the Board and other individuals interested to come assist with the rebuilding efforts in Bertie County.

The Board thanked Carolina Rebuilding Ministry for all the work that they have done in our county.

2. Elections Update by Elections Director Latoya Peele

Director Peele provided the Board with updates. Director Peele stated that for the November 2023 Municipal Elections they had a total of 585 voters to come out. Director Peele stated that they only had one person that had to fill out a Voter ID exception form.

Director Peele then discussed the new Districts for the upcoming election season. She stated that we are now in Senate District I instead of Senate District II.

Director Peele stated that candidate filing started today for the 2024 Primary Election.

3. Introduction of Emergency Services Director David Lafon

County Manager Vaughan introduced the new Emergency Service Director David Lafon to the Board.

Mr. Lafon thanked the Board for being given the opportunity to work for Bertie County. He then stated that he was looking forward to serving the citizens of Bertie County.

4. EMS & NET Account Review by Dave Pickren, Colleton Software Senior Vice President

Mr. Pickren provided a presentation to the Board. He discussed the quarterly breakdown of the County's revenue between EMS & NET.

He provided a complete total for the services provided per the County Manager's request.

The Board requested that Mr. Pickren gather more detailed data and bring it back to them at the next meeting.

5. Updates by Project Consultant Robin Payne

Robin provided the Board with general updates on Tall Glass of Water. She stated that Chowan University is continuing to do work at Tall Glass of Water.

Robin then stated that they did have a theft of a security camera at Tall Glass of Water.

She then discussed the upcoming projected budget for Tall Glass of Water.

Commissioner Wesson suggested looking into grant opportunities for broadband and other possible project funding.

Robin then explained the plans and next steps for Phase II of the Tall Glass of Water project. She then discussed the Occupancy Tax rate for the County and Coastal Resiliency.

Robin then provided updates on the Housing Consortium, Destination Bertie and upcoming strategic planning efforts.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS (B)**

### Tri-County Airport Authority- Economic Development Director Franklin Williams

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to appoint Economic Development Director Franklin Williams to the Tri-County Airport Authority. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wesson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

## **CONSENT AGENDA (C)**

1. Approve Register of Deeds Fees Report-November 2023
2. Approve Minutes for Open & Closed Session 11-6-2023

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve Register of Deeds Fees Report - November 2023 and the minutes for Open & Closed Session 11-6-2023. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

3. 2023 Memorandum of Agreement – NC State Extension and Bertie County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to approve the 2023 Memorandum of Agreement – NC State Extension and Bertie County Board of Commissioners with the opt out option of the lock key provision. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

4. Bertie County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council By-Laws

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the Bertie County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council By-Laws. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wesson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

5. Budget Amendment (Increase Budget for Contract Services-Audits to pay county tax service (CTS))

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the Budget Amendment for the Tax office. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

6. Bonds for Bertie County Officials

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the Bonds for Bertie County Officials. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wesson . The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

**OTHER ITEMS**  
**DISCUSSION AGENDA (D)**

1. Surplus Property Bid Review

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to approve the Surplus Property Bid Review. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

2. Commissioners Medical Insurance Coverage

The Board agreed that they would get a broker to look at pricing for coverage for the County commissioners.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the Commissioners Medical Insurance Coverage with the recommendation of contacting a broker and specifying the Commissioners insurance. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wesson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **3-1** vote. Commissioner White voted No.

3. 2024 NACo Legislative Conference -February 10-13, 2024 Washington D.C.

Voting Delegate (Add-on)

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to appoint Commissioner Trent as the Voting Delegate. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS (E)**

Commissioner Roberson

None.

Commissioner Wesson

Commissioner Wesson shared about the \$300,000 grant from the Bertie County Rural Health Network in reference to Behavioral Health. He then praises Nicole Outlaw the head of the Bertie Business Network for their pop-up shop in south Windsor on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

He stated that on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> Wreaths Across America for the first time will be providing wreaths for every single veteran at the public cemetery.

Commissioner Wesson informed everyone that they have finally chosen a 4-H Agent.

Commissioner White

None.

Commissioner Trent

None.

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS (F)**

Mr. Vaughan provided everyone with a reminder about the Opioid Funds Settlement Meeting that would be held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM in the Community Meeting Room of the Bertie County Library and NC Cooperative Extension Facility.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS (G)**

None.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)**

Tammy Lee

Tammy Lee thanked the Commissioners for the appointment of Franklin Williams to the Tri-County Airport Authority (read by the Assistant County Manager David Scarborough).

### **CLOSED SESSION** **PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)(4)(6)**

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to go into closed Session. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

### **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

The meeting adjourned.

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John Trent, Chair

ATTEST:

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LaShonda Cartwright, Clerk