

Windsor, North Carolina
April 3, 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
Corey Ballance, Sr., District III
Ronald “Ron” Roberson, District V
John Trent, District IV

Absent:

Staff Present: County Manager Juan Vaughan, II
Assistant County Manager David Scarborough
County Attorney Johnathan Huddleston
Finance Director William Roberson

Staff Present : Clerk to the Board LaShonda Cartwright
Joseph Wilkes - Information Technology (Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wesson called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

NCGS § 138a-15(e)

Commissioner Wesson read the North Carolina State Ethics Act into the record.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

There were no comments.

REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS (A)

PRESENTATION BY ABC BOARD CHAIR MILES DAVIS

Chairman Davis introduced the newest member to the Board, Mrs. Sharon Jones, who has replaced past member Mr. James Pugh.

Board member Sharon Jones presented the ABC law enforcement check to the Board.

Board member Michael Freeman presented the ABC county education check to the Board in the amount of \$1,643.00.

The ABC Board as a whole presented the Board with a check in the amount of \$69,000.00.

TRILLIUM 2022 ANNUAL REPORT PRESENTATION BY BOBBIE LOWE

Ms. Lowe came before the Board to give the 2022 Trillium Annual Report. She discussed with the Board what Trillium represents, Medicaid transformation changes, organizational changes and the County Data. She then answered questions that the Board had in reference to her presentation.

**CONVENE AS BOARD OF EQUALIZATION & REVIEW AND UPDATES
BY TAX ADMINISTRATOR JODIE RHEA**

Commissioner Trent made the MOTION to convene as the Board of Equalization & Review. The MOTION was SECONDED by Commissioner Roberson. The MOTION PASSED with a unanimous decision.

The Board the Convened as the Board of Equalization & Review.

The Clerk to the Board administered the Oath of the Board of Equalization & Review to Commissioners Michael White and Corey Ballance, Sr.

Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea explained to the Board the purpose of the Board of Equalization & Review. He then stated there were no appeals.

Commissioner Trent made the MOTION to RECESS until the April 17th Work Session. The MOTION was SECONDED by Commissioner Roberson. The MOTION PASSED with a unanimous decision.

The Board of Equalization & Review then RECESSED until April 17th.

TRAVEL & TOURISM AND COASTAL RESILIENCY UPDATE
BY PROJECT CONSULTANT ROBIN PAYNE

Project Consultant Robin Payne provided the Board with regarding the Tall Glass of Water project. She spoke to the Board about the upcoming Year of Trails event. She then stated that Bertie County has been designated as an official State Trails location.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY BY FINANCE DIRECTOR WILLIAM ROBERSON

Finance Director William Roberson provide the Board with a Financial Summary. He stated they were at their goal of 66.7% with \$11.8 million in the bank.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS (B)

The Board voted to fill the vacant seat on the Department of Social Services Board.

The two applicants that applied were Linda Speller and William Michael Freeman.

Commissioner Trent made the Motion to nominate Linda Speller. There were no other nominations. The floor then closed for nominations. The Board then voted as follows:

Commissioner Wesson - Aye
Commissioner Trent - Aye
Commissioner Roberson-Aye
Commissioner White-Aye
Commissioner Ballance -Aye

The **MOTION** to vote Linda Speller to fill the vacant seat on the DSS Board **PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

CONSENT AGENDA (C)

Approve Budget Amendments

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to approve the Budget Amendments. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

Approve Project Ordinances

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the Project Ordinances. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

OSBF Direct Grant (Add-on)

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to approve the OSBF Direct Grant in the amount of \$900,000. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

Water District IV (Add-on)
Convene as Water District IV

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to Convene as Water District IV. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to approve the money for both project ordinances. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

OTHER ITEMS
DISCUSSION AGENDA (D)

1. Recreation Complex Basketball Court Addition update

Assistant County Manager Scarborough gave an update to the Board on where they were with the plans for the basketball court. He stated there was a bid packaging being put together and three bids would be solicited.

2. Fire Service District: Next Steps

Assistant County Manager Scarborough informed the Board of the next steps for establishing a Fire Service District. He stated that he would be speaking to the Town Officials and getting their input at the upcoming Mayors and Commissioners Dinner.

3. Mayor & Commissioners Dinner 4/13/23 at 7:00 PM Askewville Baptist Church

Assistant County Manager Scarborough stated the date and time for the upcoming Mayors & Commissioners Dinner. He also shared with the Board that our County was the only presenter scheduled to be on the agenda, and it would be to address the Fire Service District to the municipalities. Greg Grayson, of NC Fire Chief Consulting, will be on site to explain the process and answer questions.

4. NC Cooperative Extension Report to the People Presentation 4/17/2023 Community Meeting Room

County Manager Vaughan recommended to the Board that the Commissioners schedule be amended to reflect the upcoming meeting location as the Community Room at 102 Lancaster Ave., instead of the Commissioners Room located at 106 Dundee St.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to amend the Commissioners schedule to reflect the location change of the April 17th Work Session from the Commissioners Room at 106 Dundee St to the Community Room at 102 Lancaster Ave. at 10:00 AM. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

5. Mid-East Commission's 56th Annual Meeting 4/20/23 at 6:30 PM

County Manager Vaughan notified the Board of the upcoming 56th Annual Mid-East Commission's Meeting. He stated the cost to attend was \$25 and the deadline to RSVP was April 7th.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS (E)

Commissioner Roberson

No reports.

Commissioner Ballance

Commissioner Ballance reported that he would be going out of town.

Commissioner Trent

Commissioner Trent reported that he would be going out of town.

Commissioner White

No reports.

Commissioner Wesson

Commissioner Wesson reported on Roanoke Connect and the expansion of their Broadband services in the County. He also reported that DOT was fulfilling their promise of paving and fixing the road on South 17.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORTS (F)

County Manager Vaughan announced the upcoming Ethics Training for Elected Officials at the UNC School of Government that will be held on May 25th from 10 AM- 12 PM via Zoom.

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORTS (G)

There were no reports.

ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGERS REPORTS (ADD-ON)

Assistant County Manager Scarborough announced the Needs Assessment Survey that was available online for the Housing Consortium.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

There were none.

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

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to into Closed Session. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

The meeting adjourned.

Ronald Wesson, Chair

ATTEST:

LaShonda Cartwright, Clerk to the Board