

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**July 17, 2023**  
**Commissioners Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Session today at 06:00 PM in 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

Absent: John Trent, District IV

Staff Present: County Manager Juan Vaughan, II  
Assistant County Manager David Scarborough  
County Attorney Lloyd C. Smith

Staff Present (Zoom): Clerk to the Board LaShonda Cartwright  
Information Technology Joseph Wilkes  
HR/Human Risk Director Cortney Ward

**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.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ( 3-MINUTE LIMIT PER SPEAKER)**

None.

## APPOINTMENTS & REPORTS (A)

### 1. Fybe Presentation by Chief Financial Officer Cathy Davison Chief Financial Officer

Cathy Davison stated that Roanoke Connect has now changed their name to Fybe. Ms. Davison then provided the Board with an update on Fybe and the progress that they are making in our county. Ms. Davison stated that Fybe is partnering with counties/municipalities to address critical infrastructure needs across the region.

### 2. TGOW Update by Project Consultant Robin Payne

Project Consultant Robin Payne provided the Board with an update on Tall Glass of Water. Mrs. Payne state that Phase I is now complete. She then stated that Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> would be the Grand Opening for Tall Glass of Water. This would be part of the North Carolina's Year of the Trail event which will start at 10AM and end at 4:00PM.

### 3. 2023 Municipal Election Plans by Board of Elections Director LaToya Peele

Elections Director LaToya Peele provided the Board with the plans for the upcoming 2023 Municipal Elections.

Ms. Peele stated that filing began on Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 PM. She stated that the 2023 Nonpartisan Municipal Elections are for the towns of Askewville, Aulander, Colerain, Kelford, Lewiston Woodville, Powellsville, Roxobel and Windsor. The 2023 Municipal Election date will be Tuesday, November 7, 2023. She then stated the poll will open from 6:30 AM – 7:30 PM.

Ms. Peele then provided an update on the new Voter Photo ID requirement.

### 4. Financial Summary by Interim Finance Director David Scarborough

Interim Finance Director David Scarborough provided the Board with an update on the county's finances. Mr. Scarborough identified no immediate concerns.

## BOARD APPOINTMENTS (B)

None.

## CONSENT AGENDA (C)

1. Approve Register of Deeds Fees Report – June 2023
2. Approve Tax Release Journal – May 2023

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to Approve Register of Deeds Fees Report – June 2023 and Tax Release Journal – May 2023. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

3. Approve Valuable Utility Reserve Grant & Resolution for Lewiston -Woodville Community Water System Replacement

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to Approve Valuable Utility Reserve Grant & Resolution for Lewiston -Woodville Community Water System Replacement. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

4. Budget Amendments

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to Approve the Budget Amendments. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

5. Approve MOU for CPTA FY 2025 Grant Application

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to Approve MOU for CPTA FY 2025 Grant Application. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

6. Approve FY 23-24 ARPA Plan

Commissioner Ballance made the **MOTION** to Approve FY 23-24 ARPA Plan. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

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

1. Surplus Sale Update

Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea provided an update on the status of selling surplus property for the county

2. Upcoming Meetings
  - a. July 21-24, 2023  
NACo Conference  
Austin, TX
  - b. August 24-26, 2023  
2023 NCACC Conference  
Wake County, NC

County Manager Vaughan provided the Board with an update on the upcoming NACo and NCACC Conferences.

3. 2023 NCACC-Voting Delegate

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to nominate Commissioner Wesson for Voting Delegate. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

4. Clarity of the 3% increase for county employees (addition to the agenda per Commissioner Roberson's request)

County Manager Vaughan explained the reasoning why probationary employees over the past 9 years have not received cost of living adjustments., When probationary employees complete their probationary periods successfully, they receive a 2 ½ -5 % increase. . After this explanation, the Board then discussed permitting employees that were on their probationary periods to receive the 3% pay increase just as the other County employees.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** that all employees including the ones on their probationary period receive the 3% pay increase. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Wesson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **3-1** vote with Commissioner White voting "No".

Chairman Wesson then directed the County Manager and staff to address the budgetary impact and to bring recommendations on how to address this increase at the next Board meeting.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS (E)**

#### Commissioner Roberson

None.

#### Commissioner White

None.

#### Commissioner Ballance

None.

#### Commissioner Wesson

Commissioner Wesson thanked everyone for their well wishes in reference to his wife's hip surgery. He then provided an update on the Dream Point Apartments for the Teacher Housing program.

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

County Manager Vaughan announced that HR/Human Risk Director Cortney Ward's last day with the county will be August 11<sup>th</sup> and IT Director Scott Pearce's last day with the county would be July 28<sup>th</sup>. He then wished them both well on their new endeavors.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORTS (G)**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (3-MINUTE LIMIT PER SPEAKER)**

Mayor Chris Cordon

Mayor Chris Cordon of Lewiston-Woodville came before the Board to ask if the municipalities could be notified when they had items pertaining to their municipalities on the agenda.

The Board agreed that the municipalities should be notified and they would start notifying the municipalities when they had items pertaining to their municipalities on the agenda.

William Freeman

William Freeman of the ABC Board announced that all of the staff in the Elections Department are now certified.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3)(5)(6)**

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to go into Closed Session Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3)(5)(6). The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

**OPEN SESSION**

There were no further items to discuss.

**ADJOURN**

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

The meeting adjourned.

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Ronald Wesson, Chair

Attest:

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LaShonda Cartwright, Clerk