

Windsor, North Carolina
January 8, 2024
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: Michael White, District II
Corey Ballance, Sr., District III
Ronald “Ron” Roberson, District V
John Trent, District IV

Absent: Ronald “Ron” Wesson, District I (Zoom)

Staff Present: County Manager Juan Vaughan, II
Assistant County Manager David Scarborough
Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston

Staff Present : Clerk to the Board LaShonda Cartwright
Information Technology Joseph Wilkes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Trent called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

Carolina Rebuilding Ministry – Jason Duvall

Mr. Duvall came before the Board to request approval to rehab the left side of the building they are currently leasing from the county and to utilize the two modular units outside of their current location for World Renew Partnership. World Renew Partnership is an organization that they are partnering with to help assist them with the rebuilding efforts of homes in Bertie County.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the request to utilize the two modular trailers with any recommended attorney suggestions. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

Rachel Bellis – PETA

Mrs. Bellis came before the Board to discuss animal cruelty issues that are occurring in Bertie County. Mrs. Bellis asked the Board to consider passing an ordinance that would end unneeded tethering.

APPOINTMENTS (A)

1. Request for Roanoke-Chowan News Herald’s Crossroads Magazine Ad by Multi-Media Consultant Anna Phipps

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to accept the request to run an ad in the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald’s Crossroads Magazine. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

2. Presentation to Bertie County Deputies by Sheriff Tyrone Ruffin

Sheriff Ruffin presented Deputy Braxton Manning with a certificate of Heroic Acts for an incident that occurred on December 8th with an unresponsive male in which Deputy Manning administered CPR until EMS arrived.

Sheriff Ruffin then presented Sgt. Ricky Dozier with a certificate for Lifesaving and a Lifesaving Commendation Bar to be worn on his uniform for an incident that happened on November 30th. Sgt. Dozier administered Narcan and provided chest compressions until EMS arrived.

Sheriff Ruffin thanked the Communications Center and EMS Department for all of their hard work and everything that they do to help keep the citizens of Bertie County safe.

3. Introduction of New 4-H Agent Toniqua Young by Extension Director Billy Barrow

Director Billy Barrow introduced the new 4-H Agent Toniqua Young to the Board.

Ms. Young stated that she was excited to be back in Bertie and she was looking forward to working with the County in the new 4-H Agent role.

4. Introduction of Aging Services Director Rebecca Stapleton by Manager Vaughan

County Manager Vaughan introduced the Board to the new Aging Service Director Rebecca Stapleton.

Ms. Stapleton stated that she started last Tuesday and she was happy to be working for Bertie County. She then recognized one of her staff members that was present, Alicia Browning, and further stated that her other staff members have been very helpful. She then stated that the Council on Aging now has a Facebook page.

5. Request for Position Addition for Reclassification by Human Resources & Risk Management Director

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the recommendation for the position addition reclassification for Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

6. TGOW Updates by Project Consultant Robin Payne

Consultant Payne provided the Board with updates on Tall Glass of Water. She requested funds in the amount of \$95,000 cover equipment needed for TGOW site. She then discussed with the Board the USDA RBDG Grant which requires no match from the County.

Commissioner Ballance made the **MOTION** to accept the USDA RBDG Business Opportunity Grant. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS (B)

1. Reappointment to CPTA Board – Denise Clark

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to reappoint Ms. Denise Clark to the CPTA Board. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Balance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

2. Reappointment to CADA Board of Directors-Ellen Cherry

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to appoint Mrs. Ellen Cherry to the CADA Board of Directors. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

CONSENT AGENDA (C)

1. Approve 12-4-23 Open & Closed Session Minutes

Commissioner Ballance made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes for 12-4-23 Open & Closed Session. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

2. Approve Register of Deeds Fees Report – December 2023

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the minutes for 12-4-23 Open & Closed Session. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

3. Approve Budget Amendments

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

4. Approval of 911 Center Contract

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the 911 Center Contract. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

5. Mission Critical Partners Professional Services Agreement

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the Mission Critical Partners Professional Services Agreement. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

OTHER ITEMS
DISCUSSION AGENDA (D)

1. Confirm Date in January for Work Session

The Board confirmed the date, time and location of the upcoming Work Session for January 22nd at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners Room.

2. Spring Festival Planning & Discussion

The Board decided to postpone the planning and discussion of the Spring Festival.

3. Mayors & Commissioners Dinner – January 11th, 7:00 PM, Kelford

Commissioner Trent advised everyone that the upcoming Mayors & Commissioners Dinner will be on January 11th at 7:00 PM in Kelford.

Commissioner Trent then stated that he would not be able to attend.

4. Board Chair Orientation January 18th, Raleigh, NC

Commissioner Trent stated that he would be attending the Board Chair Orientation on January 18th in Raleigh, NC.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS (E)

Roberson

Commissioner Roberson asked the Board to consider appointing Mrs. Ellen Cherry to the CADA Board of Directors. Commissioner Roberson then stated that it was very important to give other citizens the opportunity to serve on some of the Boards for the county.

Trent

None.

White

None.

Balance

None.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS (F)

County Manager Vaughan informed the Board that he planned to have another Opioid Settlement meeting before June 30th.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS (G)

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-(3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

Deborah Tayloe

Deborah Tayloe with Companion Animals came before the Board to thank them for all of their help. Mrs. Tayloe then informed the Board that Companion Animals had received their approval to become a 501c3.

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

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

RECESS

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to recess the meeting until January 22nd at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners Room. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

The meeting then recessed.

John Trent, Chair

ATTEST:

LaShonda Cartwright, Clerk to the Board

