

**Windsor, North Carolina
March 16, 2026
WORK SESSION**

The Bertie County Commissioners met in a Work Session at 10:00 AM inside the Community Meeting Room located at 104 Lancaster Ave., Windsor, NC. This meeting was hosted partially in person and partially via Zoom (conference call). The following members were present or absent:

Present: Chair, Corey Ballance, Sr., District III
Vice-Chair, Lewis Hoggard, III, District I (via Zoom)
Ronald "Ron" Roberson, District V
Vivian Saunders, District IV
Michael White, District II

Staff Present: County Manager, Juan Vaughan, II
Assistant County Attorney, Jonathan Huddleston
Clerk to the Board, Tonya Davis
Information Technology Director, Joe Wilkes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Corey Ballance, Sr. called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Saunders made the **MOTION** to enter into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)(4)(6). The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

Commissioner Saunders made the **MOTION** to re-enter into open session. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to appoint Yolanda White as the Department of Social Services Director. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Saunders. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to approve the resolution authorizing a referendum on the proposed ordinance banning animal tethering in Bertie County to be placed on the November general election ballot for voters to approve or reject. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to not accept the request for expansion for non-emergency transport at this time based on the fact that there does not seem to be a need for the county residents to protect and promote the health, safety, and welfare. Also, so that it does not affect other franchises. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to approve the sale of the Aulander School property by the process of sealed bids to go through the county attorney's office. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

CPTA Reappointment

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

Economic Development Updates by Allison Browning

Economic Development Director, Allison Browning, provided The Board with a seven-month performance update. Key highlights included ongoing business and industry outreach, development of marketing materials for two priority industrial sites (Windsor and Lewiston Woodville), and assistance to small businesses including a new Windsor thrift store.

The department is aligning its priorities with the Bertie County Strategic Action Plan 2025-2030 and strengthening regional partnerships through NC East and NCEDA. Several grant opportunities were presented, including a Rural Health Transformation Program grant (\$981,000 for emergency services equipment), a Rural Demolition Grant (\$750,000 for the former DSS/Health Department building on Wayland Street), a Golden Leaf Site Due Diligence grant (\$50,000-\$200,000 for County Farm Road), and potential EDA funding of up to \$30 million for economic adjustment.

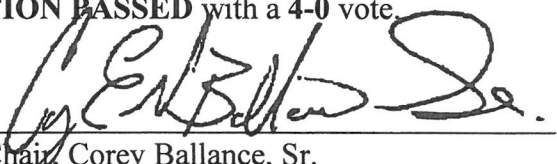
Looking ahead, the department will continue positioning Bertie County for business recruitment with a focus on local assets, industry specialization, and infrastructure readiness.

Report to the People by Billy Barrow

Cooperative Extension Director, Billy Barrow, provided the annual corporate extension report highlighting the impact of various programs in Bertie County. Key points included the regional corn trial program potentially generating \$1.9 million in impact, peanut maturity clinics saving farmers approximately \$3.2 million, and the 4-H program contributing \$3.6 million through college completion. The total estimated economic impact of extension programs in Bertie County was \$8.9 million, not including health-related benefits.

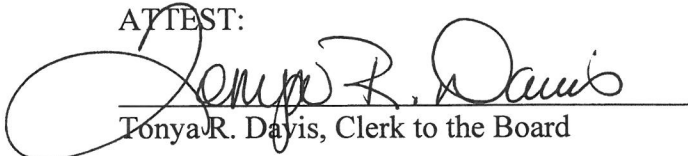
ADJOURN

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



Chair, Corey Ballance, Sr.
Bertie County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Tonya R. Davis, Clerk to the Board