

**Windsor, North Carolina
February 4, 2013
Regular Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners Room with the following members present or absent:

Present: J. Wallace Perry, Chairman
Charles L. Smith, Vice-Chairman
Rick Harrell
John Trent
Ronald "Ron" Wesson

Absent: None

Staff Present: Interim County Manager Morris Rascoe
Assistant County Manager Misty Deanes
Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston

Chairman Perry opened the meeting.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Wesson led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

APPOINTMENTS

PRESENTATION BY THE 4-H SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM) ROBOTICS TEAM

Ms. Deborah Carol, Principal at the STEM school and Mr. Jaheem Moseley, member of the Robotics Team, were present for this discussion. Ms. Carol discussed the Robotics program and the upcoming events for the team. Ms. Moseley elaborated on the program and the benefits for students in the program. Ms. Carol asked for the Board's financial support to send the team to a competition in Raleigh.

TAX ADMINISTRATOR HOSEA WILSON REGARDING PROPERTY TAXES OWED BY MR. TIM BAZEMORE, SR.

Mr. Tim Bazemore, Sr. stated that he had been misled by former administration about how much he owed in taxes. Mr. Bazemore discussed how much he had paid in taxes in the past and how much he is being told he now owes in taxes. Mr. Bazemore stated the he was confused by the statements he has received. Mr. Bazemore stated the he would like to hire a professional to review the values on his property because he does not feel the values are correct. Mr. Bazemore asked the Board to slow down the foreclosure process for his properties that are now in foreclosure.

Chairman Perry pointed out to Mr. Bazemore that the Board of Commissioners had sat as the Board of Equalization and Review earlier that year and he did not come before that Board with any issues regarding his taxes.

Tax Administrator Hosea Wilson presented information on the property taxes owed by Mr. Bazemore for the over 75 pieces of property he owns and discussed the back taxes owed on properties since 2010. Mr. Wilson stated that Mr. Bazemore had presented to the Board of Commissioners with a similar plea several years ago. Mr. Wilson stated that every taxpayer is afforded the same process in appealing values, especially this year because it was a revaluation year. Mr. Wilson stated that the 2012 property tax levies are final, but Mr. Bazemore can appeal his 2012 property values for the 2013 levies when the Board of Equalization and Review meets this year. Mr. Wilson stated that these legal processes were set out in the general statutes.

The Board and staff continued to explain this matter to Mr. Bazemore. Board members and staff discussed the legal fees assessed on each property that had gone into foreclosure and the interest that accrues on each property each month that the taxes are delinquent.

County Attorney Huddleston stated that he had personally called Mr. Bazemore and left voicemails about his property foreclosures and his office also sends at least two letters for every foreclosure.

The Board told Mr. Bazemore that he was responsible for all of the taxes owed on the parcels at this time. The board explained that penalties and fees will continue to accrue until the delinquent taxes are paid.

MR. CHRIS MOODY OF CADA REGARDING CSBG GRANT

Mr. Chris Moody of CADA discussed the proposed CADA CSBG application.

Mr. Ron Wesson asked questions about the statistics in the application, noting that Bertie County seemed to have fewer services and receive lower funds compared to the other counties. Mr. Wesson stated that it appeared that Bertie County was not getting its fair share in certain programs such as approved daycare centers, TANF and LIEAP.

Interim County Manager Rascoe stated that TANF and food stamp funds received were based on the eligibility of applicants. Mr. Rascoe stated that representatives could be contacted about the LLIEP allocation in Bertie County. Mr. Rascoe stated that citizens open up daycares as private businesses, so there is no governmental control of the number of daycares in an area.

Mr. Wesson stated that the County may want to look at what is being done in Northampton County for such programs, since the statistics for that County well exceed Bertie County.

PLANNING AND INSPECTIONS DIRECTOR TRACI WHITE REGARDING THE TOWN OF PLYMOUTH'S REQUEST FOR AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIRE PROTECTION AND CODE ENFORCEMENT AT VARIOUS BULKHEADS, DOCKS AND MARINAS

Ms. White discussed the proposed interlocal agreement. The Board discussed the agreement.

Commissioner Trent introduced a **MOTION** to approve the agreement. Vice-Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

BERTIE COUNTY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER HIVE HOUSE DIRECTOR VIVIAN SAUNDERS REGARDING GRANT APPLICATION

Ms. Vivian Saunders discussed the proposed grant application. Ms. Saunders explained that the State had capped the funds for the program for which she was applying at \$125,000.00 per year.

Commissioner Wesson stated that he had watched the One Economy movie "In the Hive," based on the work by Ms. Saunders on BET and stated that it was a very good movie. Interim County Manager Rascoe asked Ms. Saunders to share a DVD of this movie with the Board.

Vice-Chairman Smith introduced a **MOTION** to approve submitting this application. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

ALBEMARLE REGIONAL LIBRARY

Assistant County Manager Deanes stated that Lawrence Memorial Library's staff had submitted a letter in August 2012 making recommendations for two appointments to the Lawrence Memorial Library Board, but had inadvertently left off a recommendation for three other appointments with term expirations at the same time. Ms. Deanes stated that the library's staff had sent a new letter asking that Ms. Daphne Bond, Ms. Thelma Law and Ms. Irene Walker be reappointed to the Lawrence Memorial Library Board to ensure continuity of the board. Ms. Deanes stated that those members have continued to serve on that board since August.

Vice-Chairman Smith introduced a **MOTION** to reappoint Ms. Daphne Bond, Ms. Thelma Law and Ms. Irene Walker to the Lawrence Memorial Library Board. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

MID EAST COMMISSION BOARD

Assistant County Manager Deanes stated that per Administrative Staff's conversation with the Mid East Commission Executive Director Timmy Baynes on January 31, 2013, the Mid East Commission is asking for an alternate for board members. Ms. Deanes stated that Commissioner Ronald Wesson serves as the Bertie County Commissioners representative on that board. Ms. Deanes stated that Mid East is requesting an alternate to serve on the regular board and an alternate to serve on the Executive Committee. Ms. Deanes stated that per staff's conversations with the Mid East Commission Director, a commissioner needs to be chosen as an alternate for Mr. Wesson on the Mid East Commission Board in the event that Mr. Wesson is unable to attend a meeting. Ms. Deanes stated that Mid East current bylaws have no provisions about appointments to the Executive Committee. Ms. Deanes stated that Mr. Baynes and Mr. Wesson have both stated that Mid East is in the midst of looking at revisions to its bylaws regarding appointments. Ms. Deanes stated that those revisions have not yet been approved, but are in process.

Ms. Deanes asked that the Board vote on an alternate for the Mid East Commission Board to vote on matters if Mr. Wesson is unable to attend a meeting, as well as vote on an alternate for the Mid East Commission Executive Committee to vote on matters if Mr. Wesson is unable to attend a meeting.

Chairman Perry stated that he felt that a commissioner should be an alternate for this board, since it was a commissioner appointment. The Board agreed. Commissioner Trent offered to serve as the alternate on both.

Commissioner Harrell introduced a **MOTION** to approve Commissioner Trent as the alternate for Commissioner Wesson on both the Mid East Commission Board and the Mid East Commission Executive Committee. Commissioner Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Harrell introduced a **MOTION** to approve the tax error ledgers from November 30, 2012 and December 31, 2012. Vice-Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Wesson introduced a **MOTION** to approve the minutes from January 14, 2013 with changes by the County Attorney. Vice-Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

PROPERTY PURCHASE REQUEST

Deputy Tax Collector Jodie Rhea stated that the County had received an offer from Peterson Grove Missionary Baptist Church to purchase property PIN 6719940861 at 322 Morning Road for \$4,149.98. Mr. Rhea stated that the church has put down the 5% deposit to make this bid.

Assistant County Attorney Huddleston discussed the upset bid process.

Commissioner Wesson introduced a **MOTION** to accept the bid from Peterson Grove Missionary Baptist Church subject to the upset bid process. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

RENEWAL CONTRACT WITH CENTRAL CAROLINA HOLDINGS

Interim County Manager Rascoe discussed the contract.

Commissioner Wesson introduced a **MOTION** to approve execution of the contract. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE GOALS ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board discussed this request and the legislative goals adopted.

Vice-Chairman Smith introduced a **MOTION** to approve the resolution. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE GOALS ADOPTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners was founded in 1908 as a membership organization to represent the interests of counties before the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, all 100 counties are voluntary members of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, making the NCACC the official voice of North Carolina counties;

WHEREAS, every two years, the membership of the NCACC develops and approves a package of legislative proposals designed to protect and enhance the interests of county governments and the citizens who live in our 100 counties;

WHEREAS, the process to generate this package of legislative goals is deliberate and inclusive and provides extensive opportunities for counties to be involved;

WHEREAS, Bertie County is an active participant within the NCACC and participated in the process to develop these legislative proposals;

WHEREAS, more than 200 county officials representing 88 counties gathered in Durham County on Jan. 24-25, 2013, and debated and ultimately approved 60 proposals submitted by counties to be included in the legislative goals package;

WHEREAS, the attached proposals represent the collective wishes of all 100 counties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bertie County Board of Commissioners adopts this resolution in support of the legislative proposals adopted by the NCACC membership at its 2013 Legislative Goals Conference;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the General Assembly representing Bertie County to let them know of our support for these issues.

Adopted this the 4th day of February, 2013.

J. Wallace Perry, Chairman

Misty J. Deanes, Clerk to the Board

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Vice-Chairman Smith discussed the meetings he had attended recently and invited any Board member to call him to receive a copy of the information.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

Interim County Manager Rascoe stated that a draft copy of the retreat agenda had been sent to each Board member. Mr. Rascoe asked each Board member to contact staff by that afternoon if they would like to change that agenda.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

There were no reports.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

MR. JAMES PUGH REGARDING DECISIONS BY THE BOARD

Mr. James Pugh asked that the Board remember that it is representing the people of Bertie County and whatever decisions are made, make sure they are the best decisions for Bertie County. Mr. Pugh asked that the Board consider all of the people when making these decisions.

MR. JOE HOGGARD REGARDING ACCESS TO RIVERS

Mr. Joe Hoggard stated that, in listening to Planning and Inspections Director Traci White speak, he was reminded that Bertie County is served by three rivers, yet there is no public access to the rivers.

Commissioner Trent updated Mr. Hoggard on work and discussions regarding get a boat ramp, pier and dock in western Bertie County. Mr. Trent also discussed the need for access to the Chowan River.

Mr. Hoggard stated that he knew there has always been an issue with people selling or giving property. Chairman Perry agreed and stated that, in the past, he had directed Economic Development Director Steve Biggs to contact property owners about property for such and Mr. Biggs had been turned down each time he had made contact.

CLOSED SESSION

The board took a 5-minute break before going into closed session.

Upon returning to the meeting, Commisisoner Harrell introduced a **MOTION** to go into closed session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Smith introduced a **MOTION** to come out of closed session. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

OPEN SESSION CONTINUED

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER MORRIS RASCOE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT. JOHN ED WHITEHURST APPOINTED INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER

Interim County Manager Morris Rascoe announced that effective March 31, 2013 he will be retiring from Bertie County. The Board thanked Mr. Rascoe for his many years of dedicated service and shared stories of his tenure with the County.

Vice-Chairman Smith introduced a **MOTION** to appoint Mr. John Ed Whitehurst as the Interim County Manager upon Mr. Rascoe's retirement with a contract to be approved at a future meeting. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

ADJOURN

Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting.

J. Wallace Perry, Chairman

Misty J. Deanes, Clerk to the Board