

July 15, 2013
Colerain Fire Department Training Center
Regular Meeting

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a regular meeting at 7:00 PM at the Colerain Fire Department Training Room, Main Street, Colerain with the following members present or absent:

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

Absent: Rick Harrell

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer
 Assistant County Manager Misty J. Gibbs
 County Attorney Lloyd Smith

Chairman Perry opened the meeting.

Chairman Perry led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNTY MANAGER SCOTT SAUER

Chairman Perry introduced citizens to the new County Manager Scott Sauer.

Clerk of Court John Tyler gave the oath of office to County Manager Sauer. The oath reads as follows:

Oath of County Manager

I, Scott T. Sauer, do solemnly and sincerely affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said state, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; so help me God.

I, Scott T. Sauer do affirm that I will well and truly execute the duties of the Office of County Manager according to the best of my skill and ability, according to the law; so help me God.

Scott T. Sauer, County Manager

Oath administered by _____
John Tyler, Clerk of Court

Date: July 15, 2013

Received:

Misty Gibbs, Clerk to the Board

PUBLIC COMMENTS

MR. GENE CHARLES DRAKE REGARDING TRASH PICKUP

Mr. Drake discussed his displeasure with the proposal for door to door trash pickup in Bertie County. Mr. Drake stated that he did not want to see the convenience center sites closed.

MR. JOE HOGGARD REGARDING TRASH PICKUP

Mr. Hoggard stated that he agreed with Mr. Drake regarding displeasure about the proposal for door to door trash pickup. Mr. Hoggard stated that trash pickup options are already available to citizens. Mr. Hoggard stated that he is concerned about the trash burning that will start happening and the illegal dumping.

MR. MIKE BEALE REGARDING TRASH PICKUP

Mr. Beale stated that he liked having access to the manned trash sites where citizens can dump trash at their convenience. Mr. Beale stated that he felt that the current system is the best system.

MR. WILLIE OUTLAW REGARDING TRASH PICKUP

Mr. Willie Outlaw stated that he was concerned about where citizens will be able to dump oil if the convenience centers are closed.

COMMISSIONERS DISCUSSION OF TRASH PICKUP

Commissioner Trent discussed the strain on people to get trash to the convenience sites, especially on groups such as single mothers and the elderly. Commissioner John Trent discussed the benefits of door to door trash pickup, including the jobs that would be created, which would pay drivers around \$20 per hour and helpers \$14 an hour, plus retirement benefits and insurance. Commissioner Wesson asked people in the audience to raise their hand if they have garbage pickup now. Several citizens

raised their hands. Commissioner Wesson asked those citizens to raise their hands again if they would go back to only using the convenience centers. No hands were raised.

MS. CAROL ASKEW REGARDING TRASH PICKUP

Ms. Carol Askew expressed concern over having trash pickup only once per week, especially since the trash would contain leftover food and would begin to smell. Ms. Askew stated that she liked the convenience of being able to dump trash at the dump sites whenever she wanted to dump the trash.

MS. RUTH SMITH REGARDING TRASH PICKUP

Ms. Smith inquired about what would be done about the water release field. Chairman Perry stated that this matter was a Town of Colerain matter.

Ms. Smith asked what the County would do to help clean up the County instead of doing things to make more trash.

MS. CHERLENE BOND REGARDING TRASH PICKUP

Ms. Bond stated that if single mothers and the elderly do not have transportation to take their trash to the convenience sites, then they don't have transportation to get food either. Ms. Bond asked if the County was going to help with that issue too. Ms. Bond stated that she is a single parent who only gets paid once a month and does not have additional money to pay for such a service. Ms. Bond expressed that she likes the freedom to take her trash to the convenience sites when she chooses to do so.

CAPTAIN JIM WIGGINS REGARDING WORKMANS COMPENSATION PAYMENT TO LEWISTON-WOODVILLE EMS AND THE EMS SYSTEM IN BERTIE COUNTY

Captain Jim Wiggins stated that the County had allocated funds for workers compensation insurance for taking over Colerain Rescue's service district, but had not allocated the correct amount. Chairman Perry informed Mr. Wiggins that this would need to come before the Board as an agenda item.

Mr. Wiggins stated that he was concerned about the way the proposals for EMS services was handled by the County and was concerned about the timeline in the RFP.

Chairman Perry and Emergency Management Coordinator Mitch Cooper stated that the proposal was running on schedule.

MR. MELVIN ASKEW REGARDING INDUSTRY AND TRASH PICKUP

Mr. Melvin Askew stated that he felt that Bertie County needs more businesses.

Mr. Askew inquired about the cost to have door to door trash pickup. Chairman Perry stated that the Board had not received the RFPs back so they do not know the cost for trash pickup at this time.

Chairman Perry, Commissioner Wesson and Commissioner Trent discussed economic development opportunities that the Board is exploring at this time.

MR. JAN RAINES REGARDING THE EMS PROPOSALS AND FRANCHISE FEES

Mr. Jan Raines of Bertie Ambulance Service stated that he attended the mandatory meeting on May 16, 2013 at 2 PM for those agencies wishing to submit proposals for EMS services and was told at that meeting that if you were not present at the meeting, you could not submit a proposal. Mr. Raines stated that a sign in sheet was passed around and four companies signed the sheet. When those companies left the meeting, First Med was not present at the meeting.

Chairman Perry stated that a meeting was held and companies were given the opportunity to ask questions about the proposals. Chairman Perry stated that the companies left the meeting after asking questions, but the meeting was not adjourned. Chairman Perry stated that shortly after the other companies left, staff was still meeting when the representative for First Med came into the meeting, stating that she had never been to Windsor before and had gotten lost on the way. Chairman Perry stated that the meeting was still ongoing, so staff present decided that this was acceptable.

Chairman Perry pointed out that the bid submitted by Bertie Ambulance was \$1.5 million and the bid submitted by First Med was \$310,000.00. Mr. Raines stated that he understood that, but the other companies thought the meeting was over and therefore, that was his issue with the situation.

Mr. Raines stated that he had received a letter that franchise fees were raised to \$2,500.00. Mr. Raines asked why the fees were raised. Emergency Management Coordinator Mitch Cooper discussed the fee and the fee for other counties near Bertie County.

MS. JANICE GOODMAN REGARDING EMS PROPOSALS

Ms. Goodman stated that the lowest bid for EMS services was not accepted. Ms. Goodman stated that Bertie Rescue bid \$156,000.00 and was not chosen.

MR. RICKY WHITE REGARDING EMS PROPOSALS

Mr. Ricky White stated that he has worked with and taught many EMTs in Bertie County during the last 35 years that he has worked in EMS. Mr. White stated that he was upset by the Bertie Ledger Advance article where it was written that the new system would bring a better quality of service to the citizens.

CHAIRMAN PERRY REGARDING EMS SYSTEM

Chairman Perry updated citizens on the way EMS is currently handled in Bertie County and the way EMS would be handled under the new proposal.

MR. JOHN DAVIS REGARDING EMS PROPOSALS

Mr. John Davis commended citizens for sharing their opinions. Mr. Davis stated that not operating under general statutes could open up the County to a lawsuit, which the taxpayers would have to fund. Mr. Davis commended the Commissioners for trying to give the citizens the best coverage at the lowest price. Mr. Davis stated that the Commissioners would have done the taxpayers a disservice had they not allowed the First Med bid to be received because the representative got lost and came in late.

APPOINTMENTS

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR MITCH COOPER REGARDING
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Mr. Cooper stated that all bids have been reviewed and a proposed contract has been received for services with First Med. Chairman Perry stated that the proposed contract for EMS services is being reviewed by the County Attorney and the attorney for First Med as well.

Commissioner Trent introduced a **MOTION** to approve the contract with First Med at \$310,000.00 per year to provide EMS services for Bertie County and to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract once the County Attorney has finalized his review and recommendations. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**AGING DIRECTOR VENITA THOMPSON REGARDING CONGREGATE NUTRITION
PROGRAM**

Aging Director Venita Thompson discussed the cuts to the congregate nutrition program, the program budget and the cost to operate an additional program in Kelford. Ms. Thompson provided the Board with paperwork regarding the budgets.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Smith introduced a **MOTION** to approve the tax errors for May 31, 2013 and June 30, 2013. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

DISPOSAL OF C&D WASTE BY MUNICIPALITIES

County Attorney Smith stated that he had reviewed the contract with the landfill and there is no provision in the contract for free construction and demolition (C&D) waste disposal for municipalities. Chairman Perry stated that this question had been raised by one of the municipalities.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Wesson reminded citizens about the abandoned mobile home program that is available to citizens.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

County Manager Scott Sauer stated that he had established Bertie County residency as of 4:00 PM the day before.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS

Chairman Perry stated that he had received an email from a citizen regarding a pit bull that was staked beside the yard of an elderly citizen and causing the family distress. Chairman Perry stated that he had passed this information along to the County Attorney for review. County Attorney Smith stated that he had looked into this matter and at the County's animal control ordinance and this ordinance does not address such situations. Mr. Smith gave the board a packet of information on this matter and discussed

several other cases tried regarding such matters. Mr. Smith recommended that a committee be formed to explore this matter.

Commissioner Wesson stated that he would like to see a revision made to the ordinance that addressed the problem, but also protected the rights of citizens.

County Attorney Smith stated that the statute he had passed out to the Board specifically exempts hunting dogs.

Chairman Perry recognized Sheriff John Holley who is in charge of Animal Control in Bertie County. Sheriff Holley discussed the complaint that was received. Sheriff Holley stated that his office does receive many complaints regarding pit bulls and had just been on a call this weekend where a pit bull attacked a citizen.

Chairman Perry updated the citizens that the Board had approved a second Animal Control position for Bertie County in the new budget.

Mr. Askew asked if a dog snaps at you, do you have the right to put it down. Chairman Perry briefly explained the law in that matter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

MR. JOE HOGGARD REGARDING TRASH PICK UP AND ANIMAL CONTROL

Mr. Hoggard discussed the problems he saw with having door to door trash pick up on a major highway.

Mr. Hoggard briefly commented on the law regarding animal control and the problem with dogs such as pit bulls. Mr. Hoggard did caution against talking about limiting certain kinds of dogs.

MS. GAYLE MCNEAL REGARDING THE CONGREGATE NUTRITION PROGRAM AND USE OF THE SENIOR CENTER GYM

Ms. Gayle McNeal stated that the new vendor for the congregate nutrition program at the Council on Aging has been serving the worst food she has ever seen. Ms. McNeal stated that the senior citizens did not have this problem when Trumps Catering had the program. Ms. McNeal stated that the seniors should be consulted before such a change is made. Two other senior citizen ladies in the audience both agreed that the food was not acceptable.

Ms. McNeal discussed her displeasure that churches are not allowed to use the Senior Center gym. Ms. McNeal stated that she is a pastor and holds conferences at that location.

MR. RICKY LEGGETT REGARDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. Ricky Leggett stated that he has had to call 911 several times and EMS has always been prompt with its service and sent out well trained emergency medical technicians (EMTs). Mr. Leggett stated that he did not feel the new company could operate the Bertie County EMS system at the cost it has bid and felt that \$310,000.00 would be better spent to upgrade the current system. Mr. Leggett expressed concern that Bertie County would lose all of its volunteers and transport companies may be less willing to help out in times of need as they have done in the past. Mr. Leggett asked that the Board study this

matter more before signing a contract. Mr. Leggett also expressed his concern that companies in Bertie County would lose business.

Commissioner Trent discussed the recent EMS study for Bertie County which pointed out issues in the current system and noted that the current system does not perform as it should under general statute.

MS. CRYSTAL FREEMAN REGARDING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Ms. Crystal Freeman stated that she is a paramedic level EMT working with two different squads in the County and volunteering with another. Ms. Freeman stated that she was offended by a comment made during the meeting which seemed to indicate that all EMTs do is put citizens in the back of a truck.

ADJOURN

Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting.

J. Wallace Perry, Chairman

Misty J. Gibbs, Clerk to the Board