

**Lewiston-Woodville, North Carolina**  
**October 26, 2015**  
**Regular Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00pm at Perdue Farms located at 3539 Governors Road, Lewiston-Woodville, NC. The following members were present or absent:

Present: Ronald "Ron" Wesson, District I  
Stewart White, District II  
Tammy A. Lee, District III  
John Trent, District IV  
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: None

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer  
Clerk to the Board Sarah S. Tinkham  
Assistant County Attorney Lloyd Clifton Smith, III.  
Finance Officer William Roberson  
Network Systems Administrator Joe Wilkes  
Planning Director Traci White  
Nuisance Abatement Officer Barry Anderson  
Human Resources Director Carolyn Fornes  
Register of Deeds Annie Wilson

Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald and Barry Ward of the Bertie-Ledger Advance were present from the media.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Wesson called the meeting to order, and thanked those present for their attendance.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Bazemore led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patricia Ferguson of Powellsville shared her concerns about two issues: the first regarding House Bill 318, and the second regarding dangerous crossing conditions for students at Bertie High School. Ms. Ferguson urged the Board to contact the State about their disapproval of House Bill 318, as well as to consider a meeting with Superintendent Elaine White regarding the conditions for students to cross the street at Bertie High School near Windsor.

Chairman Wesson stated that he had previously sent a letter to the State regarding the Board's disapproval of House Bill 318, and that he has since received a reply back from Senator Howard Hunter. Mr. Wesson read that letter aloud, and also stated that he would actually be meeting with Superintendent White in the morning on another matter, and that he would be sure to mention the concerns at Bertie High School.

Henry Boschen, a Roxobel Commissioner, requested an update from the Board regarding the County's implementation of a pressure pump for the Town of Roxobel's water system.

Chairman Wesson and Commissioner Trent both reported that the issue was much bigger than a pressure pump and that work was currently underway to address many of the water system's limitations.

Additionally, County Manager Sauer reported that after an early morning meeting with Water Superintendent, Ricky Spivey, that a new, temporary solution could be attained in the form of an in-line submersible water pump. This temporary solution could simply supplement the system until the permanent fix could be completed. The in-line submersible pump would also be an affordable option in the meantime.

Ollie Bond of Lewiston-Woodville reported a concern she had about several of her latest water bills. She stated that they seemed abnormally high as she knew she did not require that much water use, and that she would like for the Commissioners to assist her in finding a solution.

Chairman Wesson stated that he would follow up this evening with Water Superintendent, Ricky Spivey, at the end of the meeting and work to find a solution for Ms. Bond.

## APPOINTMENTS

### **Agency program update by Joe Huff and Tom Stroud of Partnership for the Sounds**

Joe Huff, Site Manager of the Roanoke-Cashie River Center, was present with Tom Stroud of Partnership for the Sounds were present to present a quick update to the Board.

Mr. Huff began by thanking the Board for all of its support over the years and began listing all of the Center's latest events including Bee Awareness Days, children's camps, various annual festivals, as well as stating that the Center has also become a destination spot for wedding receptions, reunions, and children's camps.

Additionally, Mr. Huff informed the Board of upcoming events including a full moon paddle on the Cashie on November 11, as well as a Food & Craft Day on November 21<sup>st</sup>. He also stated that more events were to be scheduled in the month of December for the holiday season.

Tom Stroud of Partnership for the Sounds also thanked the Board for its continued support, and discussed the mission of the organization which is to provide eco-tourism resources and education to local communities. Mr. Stroud stated that the Partnership is funded through local, State, and grant funds.

The Board thanked Mr. Huff and Mr. Stroud for their presentation, and commended them for their efforts in providing programs for all ages in the County.

### **Agency program update by Executive Director, Heidi Bonislawski, of the Bertie County/Windsor YMCA**

Heidi Bonislawski, Executive Director of the Bertie County/Windsor YMCA, was present to provide a quick update to the Board regarding her latest efforts to bring community recreational programs to the municipalities of the County.

She thanked the Board for their suggestion to reach out to the faith-based community for survey responses regarding needed recreational programs in their areas.

Ms. Bonislawski stated that she had currently received over 60 survey responses from the targeted areas of Colerain, Aulander, and Lewiston-Woodville. She stated that she was now able to begin the process of receiving feedback through various public forums.

Public forums in each community are slated to take place between now and the end of the year.

Commissioner Trent commended Ms. Bonislawski, as well as Parks and Recreation Director, Donna Mizelle, for their consistent and diligent efforts in bringing this initiative to life.

Additionally, Ms. Bonislawski briefly discussed a grant funded program entitled "The Healthy Living Program" which was designed to teach healthier eating and lifestyle habits to adults. Ms.

Bonislawski requested that the Board assist in finding a grant that could continue this program as participants who completed it lost a combined total of 238 pounds.

### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Lawrence Memorial Library Board**

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to reappoint Daphne Bond to the Lawrence Memorial Library Board. Vice Chairman Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

#### **Jury Commission**

County Manager Sauer reported that a new application had been received prior to the Board's 2:00PM meeting from Mr. Vernon Lee to serve on the Jury Commission.

County Manager Sauer reiterated to the Board that the Jury Commission is a very important board and recommended that the Board accept Mr. Lee's application so that the Clerk of Court, Vasti F. James, could continue on with her work as needed for this board.

Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** to appoint Mr. Vernon Lee to the Jury Commission as recommended by the County Manager. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Wesson reiterated a new protocol for consideration of consent agenda items, many of which are administrative in nature and have been previously discussed or approved at a previous meeting.

However, he wanted to specify that tonight's consent items would be an exception.

Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda items C-1 to C-4. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The following items were approved under this motion:

1. **Minutes** for Work Session 10-5-15, Regular Session 10-5-15, and Closed Session 10-5-15
2. **Release Journal** for September 2015
3. **Grant Contract and budget amendment** for handicap accessible playground

After some discussion, Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve only the grant contract. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

4. **Letter and Resolution of Support** for a Criminal Justice program at MCC

Chairman Wesson requested that Clerk to the Board, Sarah S. Tinkham, read the Resolution of Support for a Criminal Justice program at MCC into the record.

After doing so, Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the Resolution as requested. Vice Chairman Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Resolution reads as follows:



**BERTIE COUNTY**

106 DUNDEE STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 530  
WINDSOR, NORTH CAROLINA  
27983  
(252) 794-5300  
FAX: (252) 794-5327  
WWW.CO.BERTIE.NC.US

**BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

RONALD "RON" WESSON, Chairman  
TAMMY A. LEE, Vice-Chairman  
JOHN TRENT  
ERNESTINE (BYRD) BAZEMORE  
STEWART WHITE

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR MARTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO OFFER  
AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE TECHNOLOGY**

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the North Carolina Community College System is to open the door to high quality, accessible education opportunities that minimize barriers to post-secondary education, maximize student success and, develop a globally and multi-culturally competent workforce, and improve the lives and well-being of individuals, and Whereas, the Bertie Correctional Institution, with an inmate capacity of 1400 (the largest in the region) is in the MCC service area, and

**WHEREAS**, the Bertie County Commissioners are committed to providing accessible training and education for its citizens as evidenced by its support and funding for the Martin Community College (MCC) Satellite Campus located in Windsor, which is in MCC's Service Area, and

**WHEREAS**, the Bertie County Commissioners are committed to work force development, and to providing educational opportunities that will prepare enhance economic development initiatives and prepare its citizens for jobs, and

**WHEREAS**, the Bertie Correctional Institution is located less than 10 miles from MCC's well-equipped, 12,000 square foot campus in Windsor, and

**WHEREAS**, the Bertie Correctional Institution is the largest in the region and state and houses over 1400 inmates with a staff of almost 500, and

**WHEREAS**, The Bureau of Labor Statistics also states there are 6,160 Protective Services jobs in the Northeastern North Carolina Nonmetropolitan Area, which includes Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington counties, has a great need for consistent, affordable and convenient protective services training that includes Criminal Justice Technology, and

**WHEREAS**, the Bertie Correctional Institution is in MCC's Service Area, training and education has been provided by MCC since its opening in 2006, and

**WHEREAS**, the Bertie Correctional Institution has difficulty employing and retaining correctional officer, MCC should provide a Criminal Justice Technology program so that citizens

have the opportunity for an education that prepares them for work at the Bertie Correctional Institution and/or other positions in the Department of Public Safety, and

**WHEREAS**, data from the May 2014 Bureau of Labor Statistics states that the annual mean wage for a correctional officer in Northeastern NC is \$30,570 and 2010 U.S. Census data places the median household income in Bertie County at \$30,586, and

**WHEREAS**, Martin Community College is the only college of the six community colleges in Northeastern NC and one of the only 10 within NC's 58 community colleges that does not offer a Criminal Justice Degree program, and

**WHEREAS**, the Criminal Justice Technology program should be offered by MCC so that citizens in its Service Area have ready access to the program without having to drive excessive distances, and

**WHEREAS**, Bertie County Schools will launch its pilot Public Safety Cadet program in January 2016 and its students will be able to earn college credit courses in criminal justice at MCC that will enable them to complete an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice Technology, and

**WHEREAS**, graduates of the Bertie County Schools Cadet Program MCC's Associate Degree in Criminal Justice Technology will be prepare them to begin work as a correctional employee at the Bertie Correctional Institute or in another position within the Department of Public Safety, and

**WHEREAS**, Elizabeth City State University (ESCU) and MCC are currently discussing a collaboration on a criminal justice degree that would enable graduates of the Bertie High School Cadet Program and MCC's Associate Degree in Criminal Justice to transfer to ESCU to earn a Bachelor's and/or a Master' degree in the criminal justice or public safety field, and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Bertie County Commissioners enthusiastically endorse the addition of an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice Technology to the curriculum of Martin Community College.

Adopted the 26th day of October, 2015.



Ronald D. Wesson, Chairman  
Bertie County Board of Commissioners

Attest:



Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board

5. **Offer to purchase surplus property** located at 249 White Oak Road – Bertie County Board of Education

After some discussion, Vice Chairman Lee made a **MOTION** to reject the offer to purchase the respective piece of surplus property. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

6. **Budget Amendment 16-05**

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve Budget Amendment #16-05. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Budget Amendment #16-05 reads as follows:



# BUDGET AMENDMENT

# 16-05

<p>DECREASE</p> <p>12-0025-4586-02    \$            4,253</p> <p>INCREASE</p> <p>10-0090-4991-99    \$            30,007</p>	<p>DECREASE</p> <p>12-5380-5399-60    \$            4,253</p> <p>DECREASE</p> <p>10-0025-4586-02    \$            23,775</p> <p>INCREASE</p> <p>10-5860-5220-00    \$            4,223</p> <p>10-5860-5240-00    \$            2,000</p> <p>10-5860-5399-22    \$            9</p>
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REDUCE BUDGET FROM HCCBG AND REALLOCATE FUNDS (MID-EAST)

<p>INCREASE</p> <p>10-5860-5399-95    \$            29,350    EDTAP</p> <p>12-5380-5399-95    \$            19,566    EDTAP</p> <p>12-5380-5399-94    \$            7,588     WF</p> <p>10-6100-5695-20    \$            50,512    RGP</p>	<p>INCREASE</p> <p>10-0025-4586-03    \$            29,350</p> <p>12-0025-4586-03    \$            19,566</p> <p>12-0025-4531-10    \$            7,588</p> <p>10-0025-4585-04    \$            50,512</p>
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TO SETUP BUDGET FOR ROAP TRANSPORTATION MONEY FROM STATE

<p>INCREASE</p> <p>10-6120-5499-89    \$            250,000</p>	<p>INCREASE</p> <p>10-0025-4431-27    \$            250,000</p>
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TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES GRANT FOR HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND

<p>INCREASE</p> <p>10-4950-5399-30    \$            1,175    EFNEP</p> <p>10-4950-5399-32    \$            1,426    ESMMWL</p> <p>10-4950-5399-37    \$            284     4H COOK</p> <p>10-5860-5399-50    \$            124     2HOT2TROT</p> <p>10-5860-5399-05    \$            2,384    SHIIP</p> <p>10-6120-5399-15    \$            148     SEN MOVE</p> <p>12-5380-5399-95    \$            1,336    EDTAP</p>	<p>INCREASE</p> <p>10-0090-4991-99    \$            6,877</p>
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**TO BRING OVER UNSPENT GRANT MONEY FROM**

- COOP - EXPANDED FOOD & NUTRITION
- COOP - EAT SMART-MOVE MORE
- COOP - 4-H COOKING CAMP
- COA - 2HOT2TROT
- COA - SHIIP
- P/REC - SENIORS ON THE MOVE
- DSS - ROAP MONEY- EDTAP

## DISCUSSION

**Review and consider municipal requests for litter, solid waste, and other code enforcement concerns: a) Kelford request dated 10-5-15, b) draft interlocal agreement, c) Solid Waste Ordinance, d) Junkyard and abandoned motor vehicle ordinance**

Planning Director, Traci White, and Nuisance Abatement Officer, Barry Anderson, were present for this portion of the meeting.

Mrs. White reported that the County had received a request from the Town of Kelford, as well as the Town of Roxobel (received at the beginning of this meeting) that have requested that the County enforce its litter and solid waste ordinance codes.

Chairman Wesson stated that he did not think the idea was a bad notion but that he wanted Mrs. White to be sure that the County could handle these requests if more were received in the future.

Mrs. White stated that she was confident that the County could handle the Town of Kelford and Town of Roxobel as they are fairly small, but that if more requests were received from the larger townships, that additional staff may have to be considered.

Commissioner White inquired to Mr. Anderson if this new change would adversely impact his current schedule.

Mr. Anderson stated that he was confident that he could handle these new enforcements as these two towns together are a relatively small section of the County.

They concurred that they would like to receive more information on this initiative, but that they would also like to receive feedback from the County Attorney regarding the proposed inter local agreement before making a final decision.

There was also a brief discussion concerning abandoned motor vehicles, and it was concluded that the County should make every effort to enforce this ordinance across the Board at all times.

**Discuss next steps regarding State Health Plan participation, and consider passing resolution securing an application**

After some discussion, Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to pass the resolution securing an application for the State Health Plan as recommended by the County Manager. Vice Chairman Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**Discuss date for public hearing regarding proposed Land Use Plan**

After some discussion, Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to set the public hearing date of Monday, January 11, 2016 for the proposed Land Use Plan. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**Revisit presentation given by the Charters of Freedom on September 21, 2015 in Roxobel**

After some discussion, Vice Chairman Lee made a **MOTION** to move forward and accept the offer from the Charters of Freedom to begin the process of erecting a monument in the County featuring The Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights. Commissioner White **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner White stated that he had receive a few calls from a citizen regarding hosting church services inside the Council on Aging Building.

County Manager Sauer stated that per the Board's latest review of the Senior Center Policy, the policy does not allow worship or sermon services to take place in that building. However, church sponsored events such as musical performances, for example, were allowed under the policy.

Vice Chairman Lee announced that she had been appointed to the State Public Safety Steering Committee and that her first meeting would take place in Raleigh on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Wesson announced that plans were being finalized to update the South Windsor Water System with the help of grant funding, and that those improvements would begin soon.

Additionally, Mr. Wesson announced that he would be the KeyNote speaker for an event at the prison representing the backpack nutrition program. He thanked the Prison for its offer to present and stated that he was looking forward to thanking the inmates for their combined donation of \$1,500 to the program.

Commissioner Bazemore stated that the first annual foster parent graudation ceremony would take place at the Department of Social Services on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM.

Commissioner Trent provided a short update to the public about the renovation process of the County Courthouse and also recommended the citizens visit Windsor to see the progress first hand.

He also reported that the Bertie Correctional Institution remodel was nearly completed with just some painting and refurbishing of cell block doors remaining.

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS**

The County Manger gave no remarks at this time.

### **ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS**

The Assistant County Attorney gave no remarks at this time.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED**

Monica Lassiter of Windsor commended the Board for its teamwork.

Norman Cherry of Lewiston-Woodville thanked the Board for their dedication to Martin Community College, and updated the Board on new class offerings including a Basic Spanish class due to begin soon. He also updated the Board on the Welding program by stating that the high school students have begun the theoretical portion of the class, and that the hands-on portion would begin once all equipment has been installed. The adult class would also begin soon hopefully before the end of the year.

Dr. Britt, President of Martin Community College, thanked the Board as well for their dedication to MCC and wanted to pass on another thank you to Superintendent Elaine White for providing a classroom space for the new Welding program.

Mayor Vaughan of Lewiston-Woodville thanked the Board for visiting the area tonight, and asked that the Board not forget about "West Bertie."

**ADJOURN**

Chairman Wesson adjourned the meeting at 8:30PM.

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Ronald D. Wesson, Chairman

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Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board