

**Windsor, North Carolina
November 2, 2015
Regular Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 4:00pm at 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, 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 Jonathan Huddleston
Finance Officer William Roberson
Network Systems Administrator Joe Wilkes
Soil and Water Administration Specialist Dianne Cowand
Council on Aging Director Venita Thompson
Sheriff John Holley
Clerk of Superior Court Vasti F. James

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 Trent led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Michael Elam, President of Roanoke-Chowan Community College (RCCC), was present to provide the Board with a RCCC school events newsletter, as well as to invite them to attend a robotics competition and luncheon on Saturday, November 7, 2015 at 1:00PM.

Nick Shook of Askewville came forward to inform the Board of two instances of vandalism on his property that have taken place in the last few weeks. Mr. Shook noted that two mailboxes of his had been shot once with a high powered rifle and once with a shot gun. He has since filed a report with the Sheriff's Office and wanted to come forward this evening to inform the public of these events.

The Board thanked Mr. Shook for coming forward, and stated that they had full faith in the Sheriff's Office to find the culprits behind these "mindless [acts] of vandalism."

Josephine Aiken, Municipal Services Manager, of Republic Services was present to introduce Scott Rayner, Interim Division Manager, to the Board and the citizens of the County. Ms. Aiken encouraged the Board to reach out to Mr. Rayner if a need arises, and stated that he would be in this position until a permanent replacement is found.

Terry Pierce of Pierce Lane in Windsor brought forth various concerns to the Board about the current state of the road. She stated that utility workers, school buses, and postal service workers have found themselves stuck in the various potholes on the road, and that it also presents a risk to senior citizens. Venita Thompson, Council on Aging Director, verified that the road is a risk to senior citizens as they are forced to walk from their homes to the end of the road to catch the bus to the Senior Center for aging services.

Planning Director, Traci White, provided a short PowerPoint presentation showing various pictures of the road's condition but does not depict the road after the recent rainfall totals.

Scott Emory, District Engineer, was present and stated that he was aware of an application and petition that was filed back in 2002 where the owners on Pierce Lane were requesting that the State take over the maintenance and upkeep of the road.

Additionally, Mr. Emory stated that the application did not meet the criteria at that time, but in light of new evidence, he assured them that he would review a new application upon submission.

Ms. Pierce reiterated that she would like assistance from the Board, in any way possible, to get this application approved as it is a dangerous situation especially regarding emergency vehicles.

Other homeowners expressed their concerns as well.

The Board stated that they would do what they could to get the application approved, and that they were also currently brainstorming the possibilities of passing a "Public Safety Ordinance" which would require road owners to keep roads safe and appropriately accessible to all.

Luzenia Mitchell of Lewiston-Woodville approached the Board with concerns about her water bill. She explained that the figures she was being charged for water usage did not match her water habits. She also stated that she had been charged for large sums of water while she was out of town and the water was not in use.

The Board thanked Ms. Mitchell for bringing this matter to their attention. Chairman Wesson recommended that she consult with the Water Department to see if an employee could inspect her meter, and ensure that it is working properly.

Sheriff John Holley also cautioned Ms. Mitchell to have someone keep a watch on her home while she was out of town to ensure no one was utilizing her water while she is away.

APPOINTMENTS

New school year update by Founding Executive Director of Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy, Dr. Kashi B. Hall

Dr. Kashi B. Hall, Founding Executive Director of Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy (HCLA), provided the Board with an update on the new school year. She introduced key staff members and also alerted the Board to various HCLA teachers, board members, parents, and supporters in the audience.

Dr. Hall first thanked the Board for their support and encouraged each Board member to come by during school hours to take a tour of the campus.

She also updated the Board on various items including the school's current needs such as additional funding, a bus garage, and the upcoming renovations and purchase of additional space at the Cashie Convention Center.

Lastly, she discussed her desire to add 2 additional grades to the school next year, and encouraged the Board to work collaboratively with her to continue to advance HCLA and its mission.

She emphasized that HCLA is also a public school and that it deserved the same treatment, support, and benefits of a traditional public school system.

Agency program update by Teresa Cole, Director of the Albemarle Regional Library System

Teresa Cole, Director of the Albemarle Regional Library System, was present to provide a brief project update to the Board.

She informed the Board of the positive, healthy statistics of the libraries in Bertie County regarding use and number of citizens served. Citizens not only use the libraries for checking out books, but public computer access, and literacy programs, children's story times, and job seeking help is also provided.

She also discussed the possibility of either renovating the Lawrence Memorial Library or the addition of an entirely new library.

Lastly, Ms. Cole was excited to announce that due to some additional funding received on the State level, the various public library systems in the State would benefit as well. Bertie County will be receiving an additional \$28,000.

The Board commended Ms. Cole for her diligence and dedication to the libraries of Bertie County, but also requested that they consider assisting the Roxobel-Kelford Library in the West Bertie area.

Agency program update by Dianne Cowand of the Bertie County Humane Society

Dianne Cowand, President of the Bertie County Humane Society, provided the Board with a brief update regarding the latest programs and initiatives at the animal shelter.

Ms. Cowand provided information about the discounted spay and neuter program, and encouraged all citizens to consider utilizing their services even if they do not adopt a pet from the shelter.

She stated that importance of appropriate animal care regarding population growth as there are more animals than potential pet owners.

Lastly, Ms. Cowand thanked the Board for their support, and asked for their continued support to keep the shelter as functional as possible.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

There were no Board Appointments.

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.

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda items C-1 through C-4 collectively below as presented. Vice Chairman Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

1. **Fees Report** – Register of Deeds – October 2015
2. **Minutes** for Work Session 10-26-15, Closed Session 10-26-15, and Regular Session 10-26-15

After some discussion, Vice Chairman Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the Senior Center General Purpose Funding Application for FY 2015-2016. Commissioner White **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

OTHER ITEMS

Tax Administrator's reappointment – 4 years

Clerk of Bertie County Superior Court, Vasti F. James, was present to administer the oath of Tax Administrator to Jodie Rhea.

The oath was taken and signed by all respective parties.

Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** to reappoint Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea, to his current position for an additional 4 years. Vice Chairman Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Jodie Rhea thanked the Board for the reappointment, and stated that he was eager to move forward and continue on with his work.

DISCUSSION

Project Updates

Water Department Superintendent, Ricky Spivey, came forward to update the Board regarding the in-line submersible pump needed to temporarily fix the water pressure issues in the Town of Roxobel.

He stated that bids had been received, and that the cost of the pump would total \$25,100.

County Manager Sauer stated that this cost could be reimbursed by the Town of Roxobel, and that the approval of this temporary solution should be contingent on their Town's agreement to do so.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to move forward with the solution as described with the condition that the Town of Roxobel would reimburse the County for the cost of the in-line submersible pump. Vice Chairman Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Sheriff John Holley was present to provide an update on the Sheriff's Office move to County Farm Road. He brought forth copies of the building's final layout, and explained the reasoning behind it including the office space dedicated for the Magistrates' office and the NC Highway Patrol.

Items Pending

County Manager Sauer reminded the Board of an earlier email sent to the Board regarding requested vehicle transfers. The two following vehicles are being considered for transfer:

This vehicle will be transferred to the Bertie Martin Jail:

2005 Ford Crown Vic
2FAFP71W55X123115
License Plate 50104-T
Mileage 162191

This vehicle will be transferred to the Tri-County Airport:

2006 Ford Explorer
1FMEU73836UA06215
No License Plate
Mileage 167011

County Manager Sauer requested a motion for the two cars to be transferred to the above listed entities, and that all costs associated would now be taken over by each new owner.

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to transfer the above listed vehicles to the entities listed which would also include the costs associated with each. Commissioner White **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

County Manager Sauer also reported that two more playground vendors would be present at the November 16, 2015 meeting to provide presentations regarding the handicap accessible playground grant.

He reiterated that a decision on the selection of a vendor would need to be made soon after so that the County could work towards the deadline that was assigned by Trillium for the completion of the playground installation.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Bazemore reminded the Board of an upcoming speaking engagement of Rachel Challenge at Bertie High School, and inquired about septic tank permits. She stated that she would like to see more accurate records of those contractors installing septic tanks as she feels like some names that should be there are not currently on that list.

Vice Chairman Lee reported that she had been in contact with the State DMV office and that a part-time DMV office was currently being explored for Windsor.

Commissioner White asked his fellow Commissioners about their intent to participate in the Martin County Waste Water Plant tour coming up on November 10th. Other Commissioners stated they would be in attendance. Commissioner White also inquired about a speaker being needed for a November 12, 2015 event. Chairman Wesson confirmed that he would be speaking at that particular event, and had notified the organizers.

Chairman Wesson stated that since the first faith-based community meeting discussing the State endorsed public safety programs went so well that he would like similar events to be held quarterly. He stated that more information would be shared as details became available.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

The County Manager gave no remarks at this time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS

The County Attorney gave no remarks at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

There were no additional public comments as only media, Commissioners, and County staff members were present.

ADJOURN

Chairman Wesson adjourned the meeting at 6:35PM.

Ronald D. Wesson, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board