

Windsor, North Carolina
March 10, 2015
Recessed Meeting
Part 1

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for 12:00-2:00pm in the Bertie County Cooperative Extension Department located at 204 S. Queen Street, Windsor.

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
Finance Director William Roberson
Cooperative Extension Director Richard Rhodes

Cooperative Extension Staff: Mary Morris
Belinda Belch
Sheila Powell
Tiera Beale
Kathy Copeland
Jarette Hurry

Representative: Dr. Travis Burke, District Director for NC State
Extension Services

RECONVENE FROM MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015

Chairman Wesson reconvened the March 2 regular meeting at 12:00pm at the Cooperative Extension Office.

BOARD LUNCH MEETING WITH BERTIE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

The Commissioners participated in lunch meeting with Richard Rhodes, CED and his staff who provided an overview of programming and staff responsibilities.

Following the lunch and staff presentations, the meeting continued with Dr. Burke providing an overview of the University's Strategic Visioning process and the restructuring of Cooperative Extension on a statewide basis.

He explained the University's grassroots effort to engage the public and described the more than twenty listening sessions held across North Carolina, the largest of which was at the Vernon James Center in Plymouth for the eastern region.

Mr. Burke described the new core staffing model for each County which will be comprised of an agriculture "presence" and a family and consumer science "presence" plus a 4-H agent and one support staff member.

Local funding support will require a fifty percent (50%) county match for the core staff which is an increase from the current 33% match requirement.

There were several questions and discussion about the fiscal impact on small rural counties with a large agricultural base such as Bertie, and the burden placed on the taxpayers to implement this new structure.

This new structure was described as a realignment of resources as a result of nearly ten years of budget reductions for the University from the NC General Assembly.

Each of the Commissioners expressed their support for the outstanding staff of the Cooperative Extension program in Bertie County, and re-emphasized the importance of the programs to the agricultural economy and the citizens of all ages.

At 2:15 p.m. the Board took a brief recess in order to relocate to the Commissioners Room at 106 Dundee Street for the remainder of the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) to go into closed session to consult with the County Attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege that exists between the attorney and this public body. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Board shifts into Closed Session.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to return to Open Session. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Ronald D. Wesson, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board