

Windsor, North Carolina
April 4, 2016
Special 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

There were no media members present.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Trent called the meeting to order and thanked those present for their attendance. The Chairman also informed the public that the Board just finished up a luncheon meeting with various staff members at the Bertie County Cooperative Extension Office.

The Board received a programmatic update from the staff as well as participated in a luncheon.

However, due to a scheduling conflict, the Legislative Briefing did not take place as noted on the agenda. A new date for that briefing will be discussed soon.

Work Session – Public Safety Access for emergency response vehicles on private roads

County Manager Sauer introduced the Board to various private roads in the County that have been reported to the County by citizens and by emergency response staff as being very difficult to navigate for emergency personnel vehicles.

The Board also discussed additional roads not already submitted, and consulted with the Assistant County Attorney about developing a strategy.

Assistant County Attorney, Jonathan Huddleston, presented a draft ordinance to the entitled, "Private Road Safety & Maintenance Ordinance."

In the ordinance, provisions are listed that could be enforced to ensure private roads are passible for all residents, as well as for emergency vehicles.

After discussion and suggested changes, the Board concurred that a new draft of the ordinance should be considered at a later a date and the Board requested that the fire code requirements for fire access roads be included in the next draft.

Bertie County Chapter of the NAACP – Diamond Sponsorship request

County Manager Sauer informed the Board of a sponsorship request received from the Bertie County Chapter of the NAACP.

The 33rd Annual Freedom Fund Banquet is due to take place on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 6:00PM.

Chairman Trent made a **MOTION** for the County to become a Diamond sponsor for the event with a donation of \$500. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** in a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Lee voting against the motion.

Calendar Updates/Reminders

County Manager Sauer reminded the Board of the event scheduled for this Wednesday, April 6th at 10:00AM. Members of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners will be present in Bertie County to participate in a pontoon boat ride of the new Windsor treehouse project. The District Meeting will also be held this Wednesday beginning with dinner at 5:30PM at the Vernon James Center in Washington County.

Next, the County Manager inquired about whether or not the Board would like to meet with Representative Howard Hunter and Senator Smith-Ingram on Monday, April 11th at 5:00PM. After some discussion, the Board stated that they were looking forward to seeing Rep. Hunter and Senator Smith-Ingram at the 2016 NC Summit on April 18th and 19th in Raleigh.

Also, County Manager Sauer reminded the Board that the Mayors and Commissioners dinner for this quarter would be taking place at the Scotch Hall Preserve on Wednesday, April 14th at 7:00PM.

On Thursday, April 21st, the Mid-East Commission will also be hosting its annual meeting and dinner at the Ahoskie Inn in Ahoskie at 6:30PM.

Lastly, County Manager Sauer proposed the date of Wednesday, April 27th as the dedication ceremony for the new boat access area on Weeping Mary Road in West Bertie. The time proposed was 11:00AM. The Board is also encouraged to attend the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation Community Forum on the same day from 6:00-8:00PM at the Council on Aging.

JCPC funding presentation – follow up

County Manager Sauer stated that certified minutes from the Clerk to the Board will be submitted to Laree Cherry demonstrating the new funding process for at-risk youth community organizations as discussed at a previous Commissioners meeting.

Other Items

The Board also discussed the various projects currently under way, and those that have been recently completed including the new Water Department equipment shelter, County Maintenance garage extension, and the new Sheriff's Office on County Farm Road – all items were either recently completed, or were currently on track for completion.

A suggestion was made by Vice Chairman Bazemore to showcase the progress of County projects such as these via flat screen televisions near the Water Department, Courthouse, and other areas within the County buildings so that the public could be informed of current projects and their status.

Before the close of this Special Meeting, the Board also discussed a tour of the renovations to the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail, the new Economic Development website, as well as discussed an upcoming visit from Rod Lewis of the Charters of Freedom organization.

RECESS

Chairman Trent recessed the Bertie County of Commissioners until the regular 4:00PM meeting.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board