

Windsor, North Carolina
August 22, 2016
Regular Meeting

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners convened for its regular meeting at 7:00PM inside the Aulander Community Building located at 116 S. Commerce 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
Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper
EMS Division Chief Crystal Freeman
Network Administrator Joe Wilkes
Sheriff John Holley
Deputy Tonya Todd
Deputy LaShonda Bond
Deputy Parrish Weston
Deputy Danielle Colon
Deputy Richard Oliver

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Trent called the meeting to order, and thanked the Aulander community for hosting. He also thanked all citizens present for their attendance.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner White led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

As a representative of her brother, Carnell Pillmon, Janice Pillmon Ricks expressed her concerns with the Board about the violence in the Town of Aulander. She stated that on August 2nd, Mr. Pillmon sustained serious injuries after being senselessly beaten at the Rice Avenue Recreation Complex in Aulander. Days later, Mr. Pillmon's home was also vandalized. Mrs. Ricks called for action by the Board and local community to help ensure that the Aulander community continues to work towards a safe living environment for all citizens.

Jacqueline White of Dolly's Chat & Chew Café was present to inform the Board that she would be opening up a restaurant in the Town of Aulander in the very near future. She requested that the Board keep her in mind if they become aware of any small business grants. She presented her business plan, a menu, store layout, and photos to the Board. The address of the Café is 111 W. Main Street in Downtown Aulander. She also requested that the Board seriously consider assisting the Town with additional police presence in order to combat long area gangs, and make the area safer for all citizens. No opening date was announced at this time.

The Commissioners took this time to respond to the two previous public comments.

The Board concurred that collaboration between the Board and local towns is strongly encouraged, and citizens should use every opportunity to report suspicious and violent activity to the Bertie County Sheriff's Office.

Phyllis Sexton of Aulander also expressed her concerns about the safety of Aulander's senior citizen community. She stated that there have been multiple instances where she was afraid for her elderly mother and friends in the Aulander community. She also encouraged the County seek grants to assist in the improvement of life in Aulander through public safety, recreation, and other endeavors.

Sheriff John Holley introduced 5 new deputies including: LaShonda Bond, Parrish Weston, Richard Oliver, Tonya Todd, and Danielle Colon. Sheriff Holley also responded to the various comments made this evening about public safety in Aulander, and stated that he is working closely now with the Town of Roxobel to secure a satellite office in the old Southern Bank Building. He stated that he was more than willing to collaborate with other towns as well in order to resolve public safety issues.

Aulander Town Commissioner, Ron Popell, also announced that the Town of Aulander currently has 3 police officers, and that 2 more were about to be hired. He encouraged all citizens to be

vocal when they see crime happening in their neighborhoods to immediately report it anonymously to the Sheriff's Office or Town Police.

Mayor Pro-Tem, Ms. Bobbi Parker, was also present to inform the Board of another road block that has materialized regarding the securing of another Aulander Police Chief. She mentioned that only one application had been received, so finding appropriate candidates is also a struggle faced by the Town.

At this time, there were no other public comments.

APPOINTMENTS

Greetings and a college update from Roanoke Chowan Community College (RCCC)'s new president, Dr. Jimmy Tate, introduced by Board of Education Chairman, Ms. Tarsha Dudley

Dr. Jimmy Tate, the new President of RCCC, came forward to introduce himself to the Board. He mentioned that it was an exciting time to be a part of RCCC, and that he had been visiting various towns and counties within RCCC's service area to meet and network with elected officials.

Dr. Tate asked that the Board reach out in the event that the County finds that they have any training needs, and that he was looking forward to working closely with the County in the future.

The Board welcomed Mr. Tate and wished him luck in his new position.

Public Hearing – USDA Rural Development loan application to purchase ambulance vehicles and needed equipment

Chairman Trent opened the public hearing to provide citizens the opportunity to voice their comments or concerns regarding the County's intent to submit a loan application with the USDA to purchase ambulance vehicles and needed equipment.

After opening the floor to public comments, there were no public comments made on this endeavor.

Commissioner Lee read a letter from Bill and Dell Clough which described their support of the EMS program.

The letter read into the record is below:

June 1, 2016

Director Mitchell Cooper
Bertie County Emergency Services
106 Dundee St.
PO Box 530
Windsor, NC 27983

Dear Director Cooper,

I wanted to take the opportunity to sincerely thank you for your dedication to our community. Due to recent events, my wife and I have experienced firsthand the high quality and thorough work of your Emergency Services Department, specifically the Bertie County Rescue Team.

On the morning of May 17th, my wife, Dell Clough, unexpectedly had a massive heart attack while I was outside working in our yard. Thankfully she was able to call me on my cell phone to alert me and I was able to call 9-1-1. Within what seemed like seconds of calling for help, I heard sirens and prepared for EMS to arrive. Upon arrival, the team instantly identified that Dell was suffering from a heart attack and called Vidant EastCare to meet us at Vidant Bertie's Emergency Department. I have no doubt that God and your team's quick response and identification of Dell's condition saved her life. Later, I was told that from the time that EMS was paged until Dell was in the Cath Lab at the Heart Institute in Greenville, only a little over 60 minutes had elapsed! We're still in awe of the rapid and precise work carried out by your rescue team.

The immediate response of the Bertie County Rescue Team, along with their great communication and team work, was invaluable that morning. Our community is very fortunate to have such critical resources managed and carried out by such intelligent and kind people such as yourself and your rescue team.

Words cannot express how thankful I, Dell & my family are for your thought, effort and diligence that so evidently go into supporting & training your Emergency Services staff. Thank you so much for all that you do.

We are forever grateful,


Bill & Dell Clough

County Manager Sauer requested that the Board make a motion to allow the County Manager and Emergency Services Director to move forward with the loan application as drafted in order to obligate amounts for two different loans. The loans have a fixed interest rate of 2.75% and would cover the purchase of ambulance vehicles and needed equipment.

The Board commended Ms. Miller for her diligence with this project and encouraged her to seek out any other grant or loan opportunities for other areas of County interest.

Ms. Miller explained that the Board has the full authority to either accept or decline one or both of these loans as the Board deems appropriate. She confirmed that she will work with the County to ensure that the County will have adequate time and information to make these decisions.

After a short discussion, Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to move forward with the needed resolution to hold interest rates at 2.75% for both loans in the amounts of \$788,000 and \$610,000 for needed ambulance vehicles and equipment. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The resolution reads as follows:

Resolution No: _____

BE IT RESOLVED

That the Commissioners of the County of Bertie authorizes the Chairman and Clerk to the Board to pursue USDA Loan assistance from the USDA - Rural Development for the purchase of ambulances and equipment. The proposed loan amount is **\$788,000 for the first loan and \$610,000 for the second loan** and is reflected on Forms RD 1942-47, "Loan Resolution". In that regard, the Chairman and Clerk to the Board are hereby authorized to initiate / sign any required paperwork with regard to obtaining the loans in the amount of \$788,000 and \$610,000. This authorization includes acceptance of the Letter of Conditions when prepared by USDA.

That the Commissioners of the **County of Bertie** will adopt Form RD 442-7 - Operating Budget, when prepared to reflect repayment of the loan:

That the Chairman and Clerk to the Board be authorized to execute all forms necessary to obtain the two loans from Rural Development, including, but not limited to the following forms:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Form RD 1942-47-1 | Loan Resolution |
| Form RD 1942-46 | Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions |
| Form RD 442-7 | Operating Budget |
| Form RD 400-1 | Equal Opportunity Agreement |
| Form RD 400-4 | Assurance Agreement |
| Form RD 1940-1 | Request for Obligation of Funds |
| Form RD 1910-11 | Applicant Certification Federal Collection Policies |
| Form AD-1047 | Certification Regarding Debarment Primary Covered Transactions |
| Form AD-1048 | Certification Regarding Debarment Lower Tier Covered Transactions |
| 1940-Q, Exhibit A-1 | Certification for Contracts, Grants and Loans |
| RD Form 3570-3 | Grant Agreement |
| Unnumbered Form | Certificate of Compliance |

That if the interest rate charged by Rural Development should change between this date and the date of actual approval, the Chairman and Clerk to the Board be authorized to execute new forms reflecting the current interest rate and revised payments as required by Rural Development.

That the County Commissioners elect to have the interest charged by Rural Development to be the lower of the rate in effect at either the time of loan approval or loan closing.

This resolution is to become a part of the official minutes of the County Commissioners' meeting held on August 22nd, 2016.

MOTION MADE BY: Wesson and
SECONDED BY: Lee THAT THE RESOLUTION
BE APPROVED.

MOTION PASSED 5 FOR AND 0 AGAINST.

TO BE MADE A PART OF THE MINUTES DATED August 22nd, 2016

BY: _____

Attest: John Trent, Chairman
8/22/16
(Date)

BY: Sarah Tinkman
Sarah Tinkman, Clerk to the Board

Lastly, Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper, was asked to update the Board about the current call volumes for Non-Emergency Transport (NET).

He stated that official numbers could be provided to the Board at an upcoming work session, but that typically, the County NET Division receives 10 calls a day, on average. That number spikes to 20 calls on average on Saturdays.

Mr. Cooper also announced that he had just hired 4 new part-time employees in the NET Division, and that he expects these calls to continue to grow.

Commissioner Bazemore asked if the County was having to turn down NET calls due to scheduling conflicts. Mr. Cooper replied by stating that the majority of calls that are turned down tend to be overnight calls.

Habitat for Humanity presentation by Chuck Poe

Chuck Poe of Habitat for Humanity was present to provide the Board with some updated information regarding Habitat for Humanity's eligibility criteria.

In summary, those seeking assistance through Habitat for Humanity would need to complete first time home buyer's courses, meet with a HUD Certified Housing Counselor, as well as complete various exercises showing that they are truly prepared for home ownership. Mortgages and credit backgrounds are also reviewed.

Mr. Poe announced two important dates coming up in Bertie County for those citizens interested in Habitat For Humanity including an information open house scheduled for Thursday, September 1st at 6:00PM at the Bertie-Martin Community College Campus.

Additionally, he announced an application informational session for Thursday, September 15th at 6:00PM at the Bertie-Martin Community College Campus.

Commissioner Wesson encourage Mr. Poe to contact CADA of NC, Inc. to receive feedback from them about their home buyer's program as he believed there were some participants who already met the new criteria through that resource.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Albemarle Regional Library

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to reappoint Irene Walker to the Albemarle Regional Library Board. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Lawrence Memorial Library

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to reappoint Marion Lee and Kay Brantley to the Lawrence Memorial Library Board. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Nursing Home/Adult Home Care CAC

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to appoint Anthony G. Peele to the Nursing Home/Adult Care CAC Board. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon review by Chairman Trent, Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety as presented. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. **Minutes** – Regular Session 8-1-16, Special Meeting 8-9-16
2. **Settlement** – FY2015-2016 taxes
3. **Charge of the Tax Administrator** – FY2016-2017
4. **Budget Amendments** – #'s 16-14, 17-01 and Project # 17-01
5. **Tax Sale Agreement** – Bill Forbes of United Forbes Realty, Inc.
6. **Survey** – Submerged Aquatic Vegetation and Water Depth Study – Albemarle Sound shoreline in conjunction with master plan for 137-acre site.

Regarding the Tax Sale Agreement with Bill Forbes, Assistant County Attorney, Jonathan Huddleston, discussed a small change that would be made to the last paragraph on the first page regarding the County hosting the current listings on the County's website.

Budget Amendment #'s 16-14, 17-01, and Project 17-01:

BUDGET AMENDMENT				
# 16-14				
INCREASE			INCREASE	
19-0025-4981-00	\$	510,000	19-5916-5980-30	\$ 510,000
SETUP BUDGET FOR LOTTERY PROCEEDS				
APPROVED <u> </u> / <u> </u> /201 <u> </u>				

BUDGET AMENDMENT				
		# 17-01		
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-0050-4839-82	\$	1,068	10-4950-5399-20	\$ 1,068
TO INCREASE BUDGET - FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER REIMBURSEMENT				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-0011-4111-35	\$	26,200	10-4140-5399-01	\$ 26,200
SETUP BUDGET FOR CONTRACT SERVICES - AUDITS TO PAY COUNTY TAX SERVICE (CTS)				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-6100-5695-13	\$	97,869	10-0090-4991-99	\$ 97,869
REALLOCATE CAPITAL OUTLAY MONEY NOT SPEND IN PREVIOUS YEAR. (COLERAIN ELEMENTARY ROOF REPLACEMENT)				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-0025-4431-26	\$	7,500	10-4310-5499-98	\$ 7,500
TO SETUP BUDGET FOR GRANT - VIDANT - SHERIFF EQUIPMENT (AED'S)				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-4125-5399-00	\$	15,000	10-0090-4991-99	\$ 15,000
REALLOCATE CONTRACT SERVICES MONEY NOT SPEND IN PREVIOUS YEAR. (SPRINGSTED - SALARY STUDY)				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-4330-5399-50	\$	120,000	10-0090-4991-99	\$ 120,000
TO INCREASE BUDGET - FIRE DEPARTMENTS (VOTED ON AT WORK SESSION ON JULY 14TH)				
APPROVED 8/22/2016				

PROJECT ORDINANCE				
		# PROJ 17-01		
		INCREASE		INCREASE
57-0050-4839-07	\$	125,000	57-8260-5396-01	\$ 180,097
			57-8260-5396-12	\$ 76,000
				DECREASE
			57-8260-5991-00	\$ 127,097
			57-8260-5396-29	\$ 4,000
	\$	125,000		\$ 125,000
TO ADJUST BUDGET FOR WATER DISTRICT III WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS				
APPROVED 8/22/2016				

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Discuss sponsorship for the 3rd Annual Aulander Peanut Festival – last year's contribution was \$500.00 (Gold Sponsor)

After a short discussion, Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** for the County to contribute \$500 as a Gold Sponsor to the Aulander Peanut Festival which will take place on Saturday, October 1st, 2016. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

DRAFT – Dangerous Weapons Ordinance

The Board reviewed the latest draft of a Dangerous Weapons Ordinance included within their online electronic agenda packet.

There was also a brief discussion about the clause mentioning dangerous weapons not being allowed anywhere on County property.

Assistant County Attorney, Jonathan Huddleston, stated that it was unlawful for the County to disallow dangerous weapons in the parking lots of county facilities, but that they could ban the carrying of such weapons inside County buildings.

This item was not ready for approval, but the Board concurred that another draft would be prepared, and public hearings on the matter would be scheduled in the near future.

Review Meeting Calendar

The Board called for a Work Session on Wednesday, September 14th at 2:00PM.

County Manager Sauer also reminded the Board of the Raising Bertie Stakeholders Screening Event that will take place this Wednesday, 8/24/16 from 9:00am-1:00pm at Bertie High School.

Immediately following, the Commissioners will meet with for an emergency meeting with the Board of Education at 1:30PM at the Central Services Complex.

Lastly, the Board also confirmed that they would meet at 2:00PM on Monday, September 6th to complete a performance evaluation for County Manager Scott Sauer. This will be completed just before the Board's regular meeting at 4:00PM in the same location of the Commissioners Room at the Bertie County Administration Building.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Commissioner White thanked the public for voicing all of their concerns during the earlier public comments, and gave a special thank you to County Manager Sauer, and Roanoke-Chowan News Herald reporter, Gene Motley. Lastly, he commended his fellow Commissioners and the Town of Aulander for hosting tonight's meeting.

Commissioner Lee reminded all hunters to please remember to be respectful of residential properties in the fast approaching hunting season.

Vice Chairman Bazemore encouraged all communities to be open to collaboration, and requested that the Clerk to the Board work to arrange opportunities for such collaboration between local and County officials as well as with the general public and public safety personnel. She also announced that she had been appointed to serve on the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Board as well as the North Carolina Association of Black Elected Officials Board.

Commissioner Wesson stated that even with some unfortunately occurrences, the Town of Aulander, as well as the County itself, that we should still be grateful for the things that we do have here in Bertie County.

Chairman Trent acknowledged the comments made by Janice Ricks, and thanked her for speaking up about the crime committed against her brother, and discussed the continued commitment to additional recreational opportunities here in the Town of Aulander particularly through the Windsor YMCA.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

The County Manager gave no remarks at this time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

The County Attorney gave no remarks at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Janice Ricks assured all of those present that she was not trying to agitate, and that she simply wanted to “bring closure” to a situation as well as to “advocate” for those without a voice such as the elderly or mentally disabled. She stated that she was looking forward to seeing additional discussion and collaboration to combat violence in the Town of Aulander.

Aulander Town Mayor, Larry Drew, thanked the Commissioners for having the meeting in Aulander, and that the Aulander Town Council was very taken aback by the crimes committed against Mr. Pillmon. He also reminded the public of the Aulander Peanut Festival on Saturday, October 1st, and that from 9:00AM-11:30AM on Saturday, September 17th, the Town of Aulander would be hosting an anti-violence walk.

Lastly, Town of Aulander Commissioner, Tommy Hale, requested clarification from Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper, about an incident he had heard regarding emergency transport capabilities over county lines.

RECESS

Chairman Trent recessed this meeting until Wednesday, August 24th at 1:30PM.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board