

**Windsor, North Carolina
September 25, 2016
EMERGENCY MEETING**

Chairman John Trent called for an emergency meeting today inside the Commissioners Room located at 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC 27983 at 6:30PM. 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 Officer William Roberson

Leslie Beachboard of the Bertie Ledger-Advance and Jennipher Dickens of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald were present, as well as various television media outlets.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Commissioner White led the Pledge of Allegiance and provided the Invocation.

PURPOSE OF MEETING BY CHAIRMAN TRENT

Chairman Trent gave the following remarks:

Good evening and let us again thank God that Bertie County experienced no loss of life during this flooding event.

I believe that each County Commissioner kept his or her own prayer vigil for the people of Bertie County these past few days and nights.

We should also thank our first responders and especially those volunteers for the many hours spent protecting life and property during this flooding event.

During the last five days we have witnessed the best that Bertie County has to offer in the care, compassion and tireless efforts to protect and assist our fellow citizens.

We also received strong support from the NC Emergency Management staff who have been on the ground with us at the Emergency Operation Center.

And we owe a special debt of gratitude to the City of Fayetteville, the City of Greensboro and the Town of New Bern for sending their swift water rescue teams to assist our first responders.

I have spent many hours this week speaking with mayors and fire chiefs across this County, and this truly was an “all county” event from the first rescue responses in Colerain to the massive flooding in the Town of Windsor and the surrounding areas.

I believe that Town of Windsor Mayor Jim Hoggard shares the perspective that from a fire, law enforcement and emergency management approach, it was all hands on deck, and all of us working together.

Downtown Windsor experienced devastating business losses, and citizens from Colerain’s Long Branch community to residents along Toby Lane and other areas are suffering disruption to their lives and loss of entire households.

We need to continue to support our neighbors and one another in the weeks and months ahead.

And I am very thankful that Sheriff Holley and his office and the Communications Center were relocated prior to this event. It would have been disastrous to have his personnel and equipment confined by the water blocking the streets near the prior location on Dundee Street.

Throughout these past few days I have had regular calls from the Governor’s Office through the Eastern Director, Steve Keen. Today, Mr. Keen and the Governor’s security detail and “advance team” were on the ground in Bertie County to plan for a visit by the Governor tomorrow, and I would like Sheriff Holley to review the schedule for tomorrow.

INCIDENT BRIEFING AND RECOVERY PROCESS BY EMERGENCY SERVICES
DIRECTOR, MITCH COOPER

There was a brief discussion about the recovery process now that Tropical Storm Julia has passed.

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER ACTIVATION BY EMERGENCY SERVICES
DIRECTOR, MITCH COOPER

Additionally, Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper, discussed the disaster recovery center activation process.

**ACTION TAKEN TO MITIGATE IMPACTED COUNTY FACILITIES BY COUNTY
MANAGER SAUER**

County Manager Sauer summarized the actions needed to mitigate impacted county facilities including EMS Station 1 behind Southern Bank as well as the Cooperative Extension building, and other offices currently being threatened by rising waters such as the old Sheriff's Office building.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** for the Board to waive all permit and inspection fees for properties and businesses impacted by Tropical Storm Julia. Vice Chairman Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Commissioners each expressed concern and empathy for those persons attending the meeting who were impacted by this flooding. Also, the Commissioners emphasized the importance of getting information out to the public especially through social media

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several citizens asked questions and relayed their concerns to the Commissioners.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to adjourn this Emergency Meeting. Chairman Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board