

Windsor, North Carolina
September 6, 2016
Work Session

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting inside the Commissioners Room located 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
 Economic Development Director Steve Biggs
 Parks and Recreation Director Donna Mizelle

Mr. James Eure, President of Partners for Hertford County Public Schools Foundation in Ahoskie will present background and operational guidance based on the Hertford County collaborative project to develop housing for school teachers.

Mr. James Eure, President of the Partners for Hertford County Public Schools Foundation, was present as a representative of the Partners for Hertford County Public Schools Foundation. He was asked to speak to the Board about Hertford County’s experience in applying for SECU Foundation funding for an affordable teacher and government employee apartment complex.

The complex is approximately 11 years old.

Bertie County is preparing to submit a Letter of Interest for funding from the SECU Foundation to build similar housing in Windsor.

In summary, Mr. Eure discussed the specifics of the apartment complex. He stated that there were 24 units that feature 2 bedrooms, and 2 bathrooms. Square footage of each unit is 1,053 square feet. Kitchens in each unit include a refrigerator, garbage disposal, oven, and dishwasher. Rent each month is deducted via the renters SECU accounts. The rent amount is \$625 per month which includes utilities and maintenance.

Primarily, the apartments are available to Hertford County Public School teachers, but at times, are made available to local government employees if there is a significant number of vacancies.

The complex sits on approximately 9 acres of land that is now owned by the Hertford County Public School System.

Mr. Eure stated that he is also the Property Manager and assists new occupants with moving in and acclimation, maintenance needs, as well as “turning over” apartments for new renters.

The area of the complex also features small pavilions and charcoal grills for smaller gatherings.

Also, Mr. Eure described the inner workings of the project including the process Hertford County followed to make this project happen.

First, he described the Letter of Interest, and Bertie County also receive a copy of said letter. Then, he discussed the approval process by the SECU Foundation. After, Hertford County requested quotes from architects and contracts to actually build the apartment complex.

After various quotes were received, Mills Construction was selected to build the complex. Mr. Eure highly recommended the work of Freddie Mills of Mills Construction in Raleigh, NC.

Lastly, Mr. Eure mentioned that Hertford County Public Schools, and as well as the Hertford County Public Schools Foundation, came together regarding the funding needed to maintain the complex via County tax dollars and fundraising opportunities.

In conclusion, Mr. Eure provided his recommendations on how Bertie County could move forward with the project, and stated that it would be beneficial for the County to have a strong vision in mind. He noted that having a few proposed locations for the complex available, as well as figure out who could become the Property Manager for the complex.

The Board asked questions and there was a short discussion following Mr. Eure’s presentation.

Recreation Master Plan Update—Dr. Paige Viren and Mr. David Hodges will share a proposed schedule for community input sessions and other outreach strategies to develop countywide comprehensive recreational programming. They will also seek the Board’s guidance and direction for the “visioning process” to guide the future planning for recreation facilities and services for all areas of the County.

Dr. Paige Viren, as well as two student interns, were present. Their names are Christopher Worsinger, a Graduate Student, and Kayla Maness, undergraduate student in her senior year of the Recreation & Park Administration program.

David Hodges of East Carolina University was also present to address the Board.

The following recreational community advocates from around Bertie County, ranging from students to senior citizens, were also present including: Barbara Alexander, Josephine Williams, Clara Outlaw, Doris Rascoe, Rosa Leary, and Irene Spivey.

Dr. Viren also discussed the next steps that would need to be taken to continue forward with the County’s proposed Master Plans for the water front project on the Albemarle Sound. One of those items of discussion was the scheduling of public input sessions.

Additionally, she requested the Board’s feedback on an extensive Parks and Recreation survey that would be distributed to the public at these public input sessions in order to better gauge the interests of the public for future additions to the County’s current program.

Lastly, the idea of a Parks and Recreation Committee was discussed. She recommended that the Board consider creating such committee, and appointing 5-7 individuals to it with passionate interest in the project. The committee should consist of involved citizens, as well as county employees, and a representative from Cooperative Extension, the local YMCA, and other recreation partners within the County.

The Board requested that this topic be placed on the September 14th Planning Session agenda.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board

