

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**September 6, 2016**  
**Regular Meeting**

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  
Jackia Chamblee

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Lee led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jackia Chamblee came forward to present her report from the 2016 NCACC Conference in Winston-Salem. She served as one of the youth delegates, and during her time at the conference, she networked with and interviewed her local County Commissioners. Commissioner Wesson was one of her interviewees, and commended her for her hard work as a youth representative of Bertie County.

Windsor YMCA Director, Casey Owens, was present to present the Board with commemorative plaques for their dedication of service to Bertie County citizens. There was a brief pause for media photos.

There were no other public comments.

## APPOINTMENTS

### **Presentation by Jennie Bowen, Region Q Workforce Development Director, Mid-East Commission**

Region Q Workforce Development Director, Jennie Bowen, was present to update the Board on the programs they are administering here in Bertie County through the NC Works Career Center on Granville Street.

Ms. Bowen described the impact of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

The program is designed to provide assistance to low-moderate income individuals with on the job training opportunities, financing for educational opportunities (via Individual Training Accounts for approved occupational courses and majors), as well as remediation and work experience for Youth participants.

A large focus of the WIOA program include: adults, dislocated workers, and youth between the ages of 16 and 24. Youth participants are eligible when meeting certain age requirements, or a combination of age requirements and various barriers such as criminal record, teen pregnancy, etc.

Bertie County NCWorks Center Manager, as well as WIOA Youth Case Manager, Andre Rowe, was present to answer questions from the Board.

He was commended by the Commissioners for his outreach and hard work regarding both adult job fairs and the WIOA youth program.

### **Tobacco-Free Initiatives presentation by Lisa Phillips, Albemarle Regional Health Services, and Pam Diggs of the NC Tobacco Prevention Control Branch**

Lisa Phillips of Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) introduced Pam Diggs of the NC Tobacco Prevention Control Branch.

Ms. Diggs provided a brief presentation regarding the latest general statutes and health impacts of traditional cigarettes, and e-cigarettes for vaping.

Ms. Phillips and Ms. Diggs also requested that the Board consider a “tobacco free” initiative of some kind at the County Administration Building, and other public places, if they desire to do so.

Healthy food initiatives were also discussed, and all citizens present were highly encouraged citizens to purchase produce from local Farmer’s Markets.

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** for the County Attorney to draft a “tobacco free” ordinance prohibiting smoking and tobacco product use in County buildings, within 75 feet of an entrance to a County building, and in County vehicles. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

## **Presentation by Patricia Heath of Princesses on a Mission**

Patricia Heath, CEO and Founder of Princesses on a Mission, was present to introduce her organization to the Board.

Princesses on a Mission is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization based in Bertie that assists families and children with cancer and other rare or terminal diseases. The organization plans parties as well as various hospital and home visits for children.

Princesses visit a child's home or hospital room with gift bags, activities, arts and crafts, and other items to "brighten the child and family's day during treatments or hospital stays."

The Princesses organization also provides bereavement services and referrals to support groups for parents and families looking for support.

Commissioner Wesson highly encouraged Ms. Heath to reach out to the State Employees Combined Campaign for funding opportunities.

### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to appoint Lillian Faulk and Gwen Bond-Williams to the Nursing Home/Adult Care CAC Board. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** in a 4-1 vote with Commissioner Wesson voting against.

Commissioner Wesson requested that his thoughts on this matter be reflected on the record.

He stated that he was not opposed to more citizens serving on this Board, "as they [more members] are needed."

Commissioner Wesson referenced the Board's meeting in Colerain on March 21<sup>st</sup> where Ms. Faulk and Ms. Williams spoke.

He further explained that he knew both Ms. Faulk and Ms. Williams "very well," and "intimately," but stated "I do not believe these are the two people we need on this Board, and I think they would be a detriment to the Board, in fact."

He asserted again that his statements were made based on his own experience with both individuals.

Lastly, he mentioned that when appointing individuals to serve to various committees that we need to be sure we are "appointing people that will be a positive influence."

He also stated that he "did not believe these two would be a positive influence."

## CONSENT AGENDA

Upon review by Chairman Trent, Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda items below. Commissioner White **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. **Minutes** – Regular Session 8-22-16, Joint Meeting 8-24-16
2. **Project Fund Agreement, Series Resolution, and Bond Order** – BB&T’s proposal at 1.23% for the amount of \$1,717,000 – Water District III
3. **Fees Report** – Register of Deeds – August 2016
4. **Certification of Eligibility** – Trillium Playground Grant
5. **Release Journal** – Tax Department – June 2016

## DISCUSSION AGENDA

### **Review and consider continued effort to reactivate 2009 Rural Center grant and project ordinance approved previously on September 21, 2015**

After various efforts, County Manager Sauer announced that the State has now approved the County’s request to reactivate this funding. Plans to make various improvements to the Kelford area system as a part of Water District IV, and without objection, staff will proceed under the capital project ordinance previous approved, and the project will be pushed forward to completion within twelve (12) months according to Mr. Sauer.

## **Proposed Agenda for September 14<sup>th</sup> Work Session**

County Manager Sauer reminded the Board about the Planning Session scheduled for next Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM. The Board received a copy of topics in their electronic agenda packet.

The topics listed are in need of discussion, and County Manager Sauer requested that the Board to further prioritize them as necessary.

### **Discuss or approve first draft of 2016-2017 Board of Commissioners meeting schedule**

The Board reviewed a proposed draft of the 2016-2017 Board of Commissioners meeting schedule.

No action was taken.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

Commissioner Wesson expressed concerns with the Bertie County Board of Election's recent decision to pass along its authority to the State regarding the reinstatement of three (3) early voting stations in the County, as well as some recent decisions made by the Supreme Court regarding NC voting law. He stated that the Board of Elections was "elected to represent and serve the interests of the citizens of Bertie County, but rather than do that, [and I think we were the only Board in this region], they punted that to the State, and asked the State to decide how many early voting places we had." Commissioner Wesson asserted that the decision was not made due to funding concerns, and per his conversation with the Chairman of the Board of Elections, the decision to forward the authority to the State was made due to the Board's inability to decide as a group. He reminded the Board that "four years ago, this County had one of the highest voting percentages that it has ever had in a Presidential election because of those three early voting stations...so to go back to one, as [some] members of that board would like to do, it was not a unanimous vote, I think is a crime. I want to make sure citizens are that the people on that Board who were elected to represent them in this County did not do their job, and they kicked it back to the State to decide." A decision on this matter has not yet been provided by the State, and Commissioner Wesson stated that he hoped the State would give the decision back to the County for additional consideration. Lastly, he expressed that every citizen in this County

should have every opportunity to vote in this election, and that this election should have been conducted by the Board of Elections the way it was four years ago.

Vice Chairman Bazemore reported that on August 30<sup>th</sup>, Governor Pat McCrory was present at a Grand Opening celebration for New Cherry Hospital in Goldsboro, NC. The hospital will increase the number of psychiatric beds to 313 – approximately 100 of these beds will be for patients of Bertie County.

Commissioner Lee announced that she was asked to serve as the Grand Marshall of the Greater Wynns Grove Community Day scheduled for Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The parade begins at 10:00AM.

Commissioner White congratulated all who were involved in securing the PARTF Grant for Bertie County so that the County may improve parks and recreational opportunities for all citizens.

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS**

County Manager Sauer gave no remarks at this time.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS**

County Manager Sauer gave no remarks at this time.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Wesson 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 Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments during this section. No members of the public were present.

**RECESS**

Chairman Trent recessed the meeting until 2:00PM on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> where the Board plans to meet for a Planning Session at the Roanoke-Cashie River Center.



---

John Trent, Chairman

---

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board