

**Windsor, North Carolina
January 17, 2017
Regular Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at the Powellsville Town Hall located at 106 E. Main Street, Powellsville, 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
Network Administrator Joe Wilkes
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper
Planning Director Traci White

Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald and Leslie Beachboard of the Bertie-Ledger Advance was 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

Vice Chairman Bazemore led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anthony Thomas, Dean of Student Affairs at Roanoke-Chowan Community College (RCCC), brought greetings to the Board on behalf of RCCC President, Dr. Jimmy Tate.

He also announced several events that the college would be hosting in the coming weeks including a State of the College address by President Tate on Tuesday, January 31st at 11:00 AM. Also, the “Men Building Leaders” conference will take place on Thursday, February 23, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Additionally, a meeting of pastoral leaders would also be held at RCCC on Saturday, February 28th.

Barbara Outlaw requested that the County place advertisements in local town papers to alert citizens of County Board meetings.

APPOINTMENTS

Introductory presentation by Dr. Steven Hill, Bertie County Public Schools Superintendent

Dr. Steven Hill, Bertie County Public Schools Superintendent, was present to introduce himself to the Board.

He stated that he was eager to market, communicate, and work closely with local leaders and educational partnerships to assist the students of Bertie County.

Hurricane Matthew Recovery - Update from Holland Consulting's Chris Hilbert, Program Administrator

Chris Hilbert of Holland Consulting was present to provide a brief update to the Board about his firm's work with the Town of Windsor as it relates to past flooding events.

He also noted the actions currently being taken for the Town of Windsor, as well as the County, for Tropical Storm Julia, and Hurricane Matthew Recovery.

Mr. Hilbert stated that a coastal hydrologist had shown interest in performing a hydrology survey of Bertie County and its most affected areas. After, decisions could be made to move forward with a feasibility study, and any collaboration with Army Corp of Engineers.

Chairman Trent emphasized to all of those present that despite the rumor mill, there is currently no buyout program in place. The rumor circulated several weeks back when applications began being accepted by the Planning and Inspections Department.

Mr. Hilbert thanked Chairman Trent for that emphasis, and stated that the applications being taken are simply for those who are interested in mitigation, elevation, or a possible buyout program in the future.

All information being gathered from these applications is being placed into one master spreadsheet that would then be utilized if a buyout program were to be initiated for the area.

Citizens are still able to submit this preliminary application.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

There were no Board Appointments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon review by Chairman Trent, Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** for Consent Items C-1 and C-3 be held for approval until the Board has an opportunity to discuss them at the upcoming Work Session during a Closed Session. Chairman Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the remaining Consent Agenda items below. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows (other items are being held as motioned earlier):

1. **Release Journal** – Tax – November 2016

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Discuss approval of a letter of support to legislators for a vote of support for a new terminal building at the Tri-County Airport in Rich Square

Economic Development Director, Steve Biggs, briefly discussed the purpose to the Letter of Support, and read it into the record. He also handed out photos of the existing terminal building, and discussed the needed improvements, as well as grant opportunities that are available to assist in the cost.

The support letter reads as follows:

January 17, 2017

Mr. Bobby L. Walston, P.E.
Director, Division of Aviation
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1560 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1560

Mr. Walston:

Thank you for taking time to meet with the Tri-County Airport Authority on December 13th, during such a busy time of the year. As you already know, but were able to see again we are in desperate need of making much needed improvements to Tri-County Airport Terminal. This terminal is past due to be replaced due to its age and condition.

Tri-County Airport has been a major benefit for several companies in our region that include, Perdue, Valley Proteins, Vidant Health, Nucor and Enviva Wood Pellets just to mention a few. Also the NC Forestry Service uses this facility to protect our region as part of their operation center. As you are very conscious of airports are a major consideration to companies when anticipating expansion in other geographic areas or relocating their entire business. Realizing that in some cases this is the first impression that some new business clients see, it is very important that that first impression be a most positive one.

With all of the before stated, The Bertie County Board of Commissioner endorses Tri-County Airport Authority in all of their efforts to secure all funding that is needed to construct a new terminal facility. The Bertie County Commissioners also are thankful for all of your help to make this new terminal facility a reality.

Best,

John Trent, Chairman
Bertie County Board of Commissioners

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the Letter of Support presented for a new terminal building at the Tri-County Airport in Rich Square. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Discuss approval for Letter of Understanding with Holland Consulting; approval of contract, and Work Authorization #1

County Manager Sauer reported that a Letter of Understanding, contract, and work authorization had been compiled by Holland Consulting. To follow up on the consensus that was reached at the last meeting, County Manager Sauer encouraged the Board to approve the Letter of Understanding in order for Holland Consulting to move forward.

Mr. Sauer stated the Board could take additional time to review the other documents if needed.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the Letter of Understanding, contract, and first work authorization submitted by Holland Consulting. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Discuss agenda for Planning Session on Tuesday, January 31, 2017 and the recessing of this meeting until 9:00 AM that morning

County Manager Sauer reminded the Board of the upcoming work session, and that an agenda was currently in production for this meeting.

A recess was requested for tonight's meeting so that the Board may reconvene at the work session on January 31st.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Commissioner Wesson commended the Town of Powellsville and its citizens for “coming together during difficult times to solve problems, and move forward together during this time.”

Vice Chairman Bazemore thanked the Town of Powellsville for hosting tonight’s meeting, as well as for providing a meal. She also requested assistance with a desirable location for a mental health information kiosk in Bertie. She deferred her remaining time for comment to Economic Development Director, Steve Biggs. She requested that he touch on the potential of another Family Dollar or Dollar General store the Powellsville area.

Mr. Biggs summarized the process in securing Family Dollar in Windsor, as well as Colerain, and noted that it can take about 5 years for the new locations to be opened after all is said and done. He stated that he will continue to move forward in securing another location, but that there was nothing concrete to report at this time.

Commissioner White shared his concerns about litter in Bertie County especially near convenience sites, and that he picks up trash and other items off the roadways almost every day.

Commissioner Lee announced that she, as well as other Commissioners, had just gotten back from the 2017 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference in Raleigh, NC. She thanked the citizens present for allowing the Board to attend these conferences, and that they are very informative for Commissioners.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

The County Manager gave no reports at this time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

County Attorney Lloyd Smith requested a brief Closed Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments during this section.

RECESS

Chairman Trent recessed this meeting until 9:00 AM on Tuesday, January 31, 2017.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board