

Windsor, North Carolina
October 16, 2017
REGULAR SESSION

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting inside the Commissioners Room, 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
 Economic Development Director Steve Biggs
 Finance Officer William Roberson

Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald and Leslie Beachboard 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

There were no Public Comments provided at this time.

APPOINTMENTS

CDBG-DR grant Public Hearing #2 of 2 – facilitated by Chris Hilbert, Holland Planning Consulting

Chris Hilbert of Holland Planning Consulting was present to conduct a public hearing as well as to provide a brief update on the two grants that are in progress or have just been submitted to FEMA.

Chairmen Trent opened the public hearing.

Mr. Hilbert explained that the CDBG grant proposal of \$777,500 is allocated for residential rehabilitation (\$325,000), residential reconstruction (\$325,000), community facilities (\$90,000) for temporary lease space for the library in years two and three, and project administration (\$37,500).

There were no public comments.

Chairmen Trent closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** for Holland Planning Consulting to move forward with the CDBG-DR grant application which involves reconstruction of low-moderate income housing affected by Hurricane Matthew. Vice Chairman Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative update on broadband project and CDBG grant schedule

Marshall Cherry of Roanoke Electric Cooperative (REC) was present to provide an update on Roanoke Electric's broadband project currently in its second phase of completion.

For the last several weeks, REC has asked interested citizens to call and officially state their interest in the broadband project. This data is being collected for a "heat map" which will allow REC to determine the best locations for the first round of fiber line during the roll out process.

Service subscriptions will cost \$45 per month and will include a free Nest, wireless thermostat, as well as a free water heater gauge. Download speeds will be 60 mgs. per second.

Mr. Cherry encouraged all citizens to submit their interest to REC so that they can properly account for the amount of fiber and the number of households who would like to connect.

Economic Development Report by Steve Biggs, Economic Development Director

Economic Development Director, Steve Biggs, was present to provide the following updates.

First, he discussed the current state of the Windsor Abrams restaurant located on US Highway 13. He reported that construction was going well, but that opening would not be until sometime into November. The location will provide 18 full-time positions once hiring begins and is completed.

Second, he discussed the grand opening of Dolly's Café in Colerain (September 30th), and the grand reopening of Bakers' Southern Traditions Peanuts in Roxobel (October 7th). Additionally, a new Women's Business Service Center just recently opened at Elizabeth City State University.

Third, it was reported that a feasibility study had just been completed for the proposed location of the future Interstate 87. Mr. Biggs discussed the possible impacts to Bertie County with the Board, and they asked questions as needed.

Fourth, the topic of the middle-income housing initiative was discussed, and that Commissioner Wesson and Mr. Biggs were still currently running numbers on the complex, and would have more information soon.

Fifth, by popular demand, Mr. Biggs was still in the process of securing a Mexican restaurant owner to Bertie, but nothing definite has happened as of yet.

Sixth, Mr. Biggs discussed the continued success of the several agri-businesses in the County (Perdue, AVOCA).

Seventh, he discussed the latest challenges faced by the Department of Corrections to secure new employees for their almost 100 vacant positions. Similar concerns were shared about the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail. The Board shared their thoughts about how recruitment and retention could be improved including a more frequent pay calendar. Commissioner Wesson also encouraged Mr. Biggs to continue working to secure some kind of business for the industrial space at the prison as it could provide a great working environment for inmates, and help to boost morale.

Eighth, it was reported that Scotch Hall was having another great year with events, the golf course, and restaurant located on site.

Ninth, Mr. Biggs discussed a couple of new businesses who had shown interest in Bertie County. One business is involved with logging, and another is a potential pharmacy that could occupy the now vacant Walgreens space in Windsor.

Tenth, Mr. Biggs reported that plans had been received and approved for a Dollar General location in Merry Hill, and that he had received notification that the grocery store in Lewiston-Woodville will be closing in the near future.

Lastly, Mr. Biggs discussed CSX Railroad's plans to expand with an "interconnect" system that would run through the region and would also provide more opportunities for employment.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Peanut Belt Rural Planning Organization

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to appoint James Peele to the Peanut Belt Rural Planning Organization. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. **Minutes** – Regular Session 10-2-17, Work Session 10-10-17
2. **Fees Report** – Register of Deeds, August 2017
4. **Debris contract** – debris collection
5. **Budget Amendments** – Project 18-03
7. **Tax Release Journal** – September 2017
8. **Offer to purchase** – 106 Beacon Height Church Road

Budget amendment Project 18-03 is below:

PROJECT ORDINANCE				
		# PROJ 18-03		
	INCREASE			INCREASE
37-0025-4301-00	\$	1,437,608	37-MERGER	37-8200-5396-01 \$ 1,427,258
37-0025-4301-13	\$	500,000		37-8200-5396-12 \$ 388,500
37-0070-3981-65	\$	38,752		37-8200-5396-14 \$ 38,752
				37-8200-5396-19 \$ 2,030
				37-8200-5396-38 \$ 3,000
				37-8200-5396-47 \$ 15,352
				37-8200-5991-00 \$ 101,468
60-7110-5980-67	\$	38,752		60-0090-4991-99 \$ 38,752
SRF PROJECT NO.: WIF-1897 (ROXOBEL MERGER)				
PROJECT ORDINANCE - WATER DISTRICT IV - "REVISION #2"				
"REVISED BASED ON LGC'S VOTE ON OCTOBER 03, 2017 TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO COMPLETE PROJECT"				
APPROVED / /2017				



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE TREASURER

STATE TREASURER OF NORTH CAROLINA
DALE R. FOLWELL, CPA

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE DIVISION
AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

GREGORY C. GASKINS
DEPUTY TREASURER

October 4, 2017

The Honorable Chairman
County of Bertie
c/o William Roberson
Finance Officer
PO Box 530
Windsor, North Carolina 27983

Re: Bertie County Water District IV - Request an increase of additional funds for
State Revolving Loan – Water

Dear Chairman:

On October 3, 2017, the Commission approved the request for an increase of additional funds on a State Revolving Loan. The City is requesting an increase of \$259,058 for a total loan of a \$1,937,608 which was formally approved by the N.C. Local Government Commission on August 2, 2016.

We are pleased to have had this opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Greg C. Gaskins, Secretary
Local Government Commission

GCG/aps

cc: Mark L. Hubbard, P.E., Assistant Chief
Division of Water Infrastructure

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Schedule for opening temporary library facility – Food Lion Shopping Center

County Manager Sauer announced that Albemarle Regional Library Director, Jennifer Patterson, would be present at the Board's next regular meeting to discuss the opening of the temporary library facility.

So far, it is slated for mid-November. More updates will be provided at the next regular meeting.

Private roads – correspondence for property owners prepared by County Attorney

This item was deferred to tomorrow's work session in Windsor at the Bertie County Administration Building.

Calendar Reminders/Event Updates

- a. Design proposal presentations for joint-use facility, 10/17 at 9am**
- b. Community Town Hall – BHS Auditorium, 10/21/17 at 10am**

County Manager Sauer shared these brief reminders.

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

Norman Cherry, President of Bertie-Martin CC Campus, was present to inform the Board of an open Basic Education Teacher position at the Bertie-Martin campus.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Vice Chairman Bazemore

Vice Chairman Bazemore reported that she had recently attended an NCACC Board of Directors meeting, and that through some connections, she was able to secure a contractor that could install a well at the Lewiston-Woodville Convenience Site.

Chairman Trent

Chairman Trent gave no remarks at this time.

Commissioner Lee

Commissioner Lee reported that she was currently serving on a committee that is recruiting for an additional dentist to join the healthcare community in the County. The latest initiative is being coordinated with two local private schools to offer an incentive package for a dentist to open an office in Bertie.

Additionally, she commended the volunteers and organizers of the latest Aulander Peanut Festival on October 7th and said the event was a great success.

Commissioner White

Commissioner White reported that several other events were due to take place this coming Saturday in addition to the Town Hall which include a Kelford Community Day as well as a Lewiston Day. He encouraged all citizens to visit and support their local communities.

Commissioner Wesson

Commissioner Wesson announced that he is now involved in a Board entitled, “100 Counties Helping Our Children Thrive,” which is highlighting the efforts in eight counties, including Bertie’s “Better Beginning’s for Bertie’s Children” program.

Also, Mr. Wesson informed the public that the Town of Windsor had agreed to donate the 6-acre tract of land on Harrell Heights Road located just off of Highway 17, which is the location the County was most enthusiastic for the middle-income housing complex. The tract of land is being donated to the Windsor Township Development Commission for the project’s use.

RECESS

Chairman Trent **RECESSED** the meeting until tomorrow, October 17 at 9:00 AM inside the Commissioners Room of the Bertie County Administration Building.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board