

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**February 20, 2017**  
**Regular Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting inside the Mid-Way/Merry Hill Community Building located at 112 NC 45 North, Merry Hill. 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  
Network Administrator Joe Wilkes  
Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea  
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper  
Clerk of Court Vasti F. James

Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald 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**

Vernon Lee, husband of Commissioner Tammy Lee, led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Freeman of Merry Hill wanted to submit a complaint about the convenience site near Merry Hill. He stated that on several occasions, he has been to drop off solid waste to find the containers completely full. He wanted to alert the Commissioners so that Republic can be contacted to remedy this situation, and keep it remedied on a regular basis.

The Board assured Mr. Freeman that there was always an “ongoing conversation” with Republic Services regarding the convenience sites, and that they would forward his concerns.

Jerry Cowand of Merry Hill also agreed with Mr. Freeman’s sentiments, and requested that the Commissioners speak to Republic about trash being delivered to convenience sites by marked, local fire department vehicles. Mr. Cowand mentioned that he is turned away if driving a marked, fire department truck, but not if he is driving his own personal vehicle.

Lewis C. Hoggard of Windsor was present as a representative of Roanoke-Chowan Community College. He updated the Board about upcoming events at the College including a male mentoring seminar that is due to take place this Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

James Heckstall of Merry Hill inquired about the County’s current efforts to prevent the flooding of Windsor and other low lying areas of the County in the future.

Chairman Trent briefly updated the public present about the latest grant work and hydrological study proposals just received to future flooding. He also announced that several Commissioners would be meeting with federal legislators next week in Washington, D.C. to hopefully secure more funding and resources to repair the damage, and to prevent the risk of flooding in the future.

Vice Chairman Bazemore encourage Mr. Heckstall and others to come forward if they have any particular infrastructure needs in the Merry Hill area as grants may be available now or in the near future.

Clara Daniels of Merry Hill was present to share her concerns about a lack of options for home bound seniors to receive hot meals on a regular basis without going to Windsor.

Commissioner Wesson stated that County staff would speak to Council on Aging Director, Venita Thompson, about how to get eligible seniors registered for this program so that they can receive these available services.

A citizen inquired if there was a conservative time estimate yet about when funding would be received for more permanent flood prevention.

The Board agreed that the information shared this evening was a theory at this point, but that they also just learned that Bertie County was added to the North Carolina Emergency Management Resilient Redevelopment Plan.

Since Bertie County and the Town of Windsor are included on this list, it provides the County with priority access to additional funding for flood recovery projects.

A public meeting will take place for the Resilient Redevelopment program on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Windsor Community Building.

The Board encouraged all citizens to attend.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### **Introduction of new Albemarle Regional Library System (ARLS) Director, Jennifer Patterson**

Jennifer Patterson, the new Albemarle Regional Library Director, was present to introduce herself to the Board, as well as to update the public about the Lawrence Memorial Library which sustained a significant amount of damage during the two recent flooding events.

Ms. Patterson assured all of those present that the ARLS was diligently working to secure a new location for Lawrence Memorial Library that is outside of the flood zone.

She stated that she and Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper, were constantly communicating with FEMA about securing either mobile units or a new, permanent structure.

She also announced the grant funded partnership called NC Kids Digital Library that features over 200 titles of children's eBooks which are available at no charge on any device.

#### **Introduction of new Mid-East Regional Housing Authority Director, Lynn Alligood**

Lynn Alligood of the Mid-East Regional Housing Authority was present to introduce herself to the Board, as well as to provide details about the services her organization provides including Section 8 and first time home buyer's programs.

Commissioner Wesson inquired if the Mid-East Regional Housing Authority would assist in securing a grant for a middle-income housing complex through SECU.

Ms. Alligood mentioned that she believed Mid-East Regional Housing Authority could assist as a property manager for that type of development, and that she would look into the matter more closely.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

There were no Board Appointments.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. **Minutes** – Regular Session 2-6-17, Work Session 2-6-17
2. **Tax Release** – January 2017
3. **\*Resolution** – Perdue Farms Tax appeal

\* This is an addition to tonight's agenda not originally on the Board's agenda.

## **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **Review of Hurricane Matthew Recovery activities:**

- a. Resilient Redevelopment Planning Program**
- b. Golden Leaf**
- c. FEMA**
- d. CADA Workers provided through Mid-East Commission Workforce Development Board**

County Manager Sauer briefly reviewed the above items. No action was needed.

In regards to the Resilient Redevelopment Planning program, the first meeting will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Windsor Town Hall.

Also, Golden Leaf funds are being pursued to assist in fixing the Cooperative Extension and Lawrence Memorial Library buildings.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS**

Commissioner Wesson stated that he had been asked to serve on a resiliency board that is due to meet soon.

Vice Chairman Bazemore thanked Mid-Way/Merry Hill for hosting tonight's meeting. She suggested that the County and Mid-Way/Merry Hill also consider doing more meetings like this to share local concerns.

Commissioner White also discussed the grant efforts for flood recovery, as well as efforts to ensure trash does not blow out onto roadways when trucks are entering and exiting the County landfill and convenience sites.

Commissioner Lee thanked Mid-Way/Merry Hill for the large turn out, and stated that she was in the process of trying to secure another dentist in the County since there is a "great need, wheels just turn slowly."

Chairman Trent thanked the local community for their participation in tonight's meeting, and encouraged all of those present to take a trip to Windsor to see the newly renovated interior and exterior of the Courthouse.

**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.

**ADJOURN**

Chairman Trent **ADJOURNED** the meeting at 8:20 PM.

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John Trent, Chairman

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Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board