

Windsor, North Carolina
February 6, 2017
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 Lloyd Smith
Finance Officer William Roberson
Parks and Recreation Director Donna Mizelle
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs

WORK SESSION

a) New PARTF grant opportunity presentation by LuAnn Bryan, Parks and Recreation Consultant, NC Division of Parks and Recreation

The Board heard an update on the comprehensive countywide recreation master plan project from Dr. Paige Viren and David Hodges and the efforts to expand public input to include school aged children, the public, private schools, and charter schools so that they can further identify programming needs and recreation interests across the County.

The Board also received an overview of the PARTF application process and funding criteria from Ms. LuAnn Bryan, Regional Manager for the NC Parks and Recreation system.

Ms. Bryan encouraged the County to further develop the site concept for the Albemarle Sound recreation and public access water site, and explained some of the key elements of successful grant applications.

After much discussion, the Board came to a consensus regarding a timeline for the next PARTF grant application, and determined that the May 2018 grant cycle would be an appropriate target date for full development of the site plan and programming proposed for the Albemarle Sound project.

b) Dr. Paige Viren and David Hodge will provide an update on the Countywide Recreation Master Plan

The Board expressed their gratitude and many compliments to the consulting team of Dr. Viren and Mr. Hodges for their efforts on behalf of Bertie County's countywide approach to expanding recreation services for Bertie residents.

The Board also expressed its support for the consulting team to advance this project to the next PARTF grant cycle, and preparation of the next application for May 2018.

Commissioners also thanked Ms. Bryan for her support and insight as the Board examines further programming opportunities for the Albemarle Sound recreation project, and for other recreational opportunities throughout Bertie County.

County Manager Sauer suggested that the Board visit other sites and learn about partnership opportunities and identified Cleveland County as a possible tour to learn about the joint efforts of Cleveland County and the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

Following a brief break, several other items were discussed:

Commissioner White expressed his continued interest in honoring the charter members of the original Bertie Rescue Squad volunteers with a special event to include a Board resolution, dinner, plaques and other presentations in the near future.

County Manager Sauer shared the request from Sheriff John Holley seeking the Board's approval to contribute \$1,000 to the Sidney Dive Team of Beaufort County for its many hours of service to Bertie County Sheriff's Office investigations. The Board concurred with the suggestion that the funds be absorbed within the Sheriff's Department current budget appropriation.

Additionally, County Manager Sauer notified that the Board that the County had been contacted by representatives of a local foundation that is willing to make an anonymous donation to the County in support of relocating the library. The amount will be in excess of \$100,000 and the communication and other details are to be worked out between the County Attorney and, Braxton Gilliam, Attorney for the anonymous donor.

County Manager Sauer reported that the NC Coastal Land Trust is seeking another letter of support for its efforts to acquire property adjoining the Albemarle Sound site owned by the

County in order to expand and conserve this open space for wildlife and recreation activities. The Board concurred with this request.

County Manager Sauer reviewed a request from Trillium to install a public access kiosk in Bertie County. Vice Chairman Bazemore, who represents Bertie County on Trillium Board has suggested that the waiting area at Bertie Vidant hospital would afford citizens 24-hour access to this kiosk terminal. The Board concurred to send a letter to Bertie Vidant hospital with this recommendation.

Commissioner Lee requested additional flood photos be prepared for the Commissioners trip to Washington, D.C. later this month.

Commissioner Wesson expressed his thanks for flood photos and drone videos that he used in a recent meeting with local business and community leaders.

RECESS

Chairman Trent **RECESSED** this meeting until 4:00 PM.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board