

**Windsor, North Carolina
February 6, 2017
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 Lloyd Smith
Finance Officer William Roberson
Network Administrator Joe Wilkes
Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea
Planning Director Traci White
Nuisance Abatement Officer Barry Anderson

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

Chairman Trent led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Brian Busch, acting President at MCC at Martin Community College (MCC) was present to introduce himself to the Board. Mr. Busch thanked the Board for its continued partnership with MCC.

Battle Betts of Albemarle Regional Health Services was present to inform the Board of the health system's 75th year of service. Mr. Betts requested that the Board pass a resolution in honor of the achievement. Chairman Trent read the proposed resolution into the record. Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the resolution. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION OF 75 YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

WHEREAS, Albemarle Regional Health Services will celebrate its 75th Anniversary of service to citizens of Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie, and Gates counties; and

WHEREAS, Albemarle Regional Health Services has rendered quality care to the citizens of the Albemarle region of care during its seventy-five years of operation; and

WHEREAS, Albemarle Regional Health Services is to be commended for its seventy-five years of outstanding service;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Bertie County Board of Commissioners that Albemarle Regional Health Services be congratulated and offered the Board's sincerest appreciation for seventy-five successful years of dedicated service to the citizens of the Albemarle region.

Adopted this the 6th day of February 2017.

APPOINTMENTS

Presentation regarding NC 11/308 in Lewiston-Woodville by Jason Davidson, Division Traffic Engineer for NCDOT

Jason Davidson, Division Traffic Engineer for NCDOT, was present to update the Board on the study that had been conducted on the intersection of NC 11/308 in Lewiston-Woodville,

In the past, the Board had communicated interest to NCDOT about a traffic light at said intersection, and after review, Mr. Davidson was able to provide an update.

Mr. Davidson noted that a fully study had been conducted, and that NCDOT deemed that this intersection was not eligible for a stop light. However, he presented various examples of similar intersections in other counties that benefited from a four-way stop traffic pattern.

Chairman Trent commended Mr. Davidson and NCDOT for their work in looking into this matter, and also thanked him for the improvements that were made to various road way and ditch areas in the Indian Woods community.

In order to move forward with the proposed four-way stop, Mr. Davidson requested that the Board send a resolution of support to NCDOT.

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** for County staff to draft and send a Resolution of Support to NCDOT for a four-way stop to be implemented at the NC 11/308 intersection in Lewiston-Woodville. Commissioner White **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Per a question from Commissioner Wesson, Mr. Davidson stated that funding for this project should be received sometime in April, and the project could be completed sometime this summer.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A FOUR-WAY TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM AT THE INTERSECTION OF NC 11/308 IN LEWISTON-WOODVILLE

WHEREAS, the Bertie County Board of Commissioners requested an NCDOT traffic study for the intersection of NC 11/308 in Lewiston-Woodville on the evening of May 23, 2016 at the Blue Jay Fire Department in Indian Woods; and

WHEREAS, the NCDOT Division Engineer has presented recommendations to improve safety for motorists and vehicular traffic at the intersection of NC 11/308 with the installation of a four-way stop traffic control system; and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bertie County Board of Commissioners approves and supports this recommendation by the Division Engineer and expresses its gratitude for the diligence and careful attention provided by the NCDOT staff serving Bertie County.

Adopted this the **6th** day of **February** 2017.

Presentation of 2016 unpaid taxes report by Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea

Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea, presented his 2016 unpaid taxes report, and stated that the County had an 88% collection rate thus far.

Chairman Trent had the Board refer to the Consent Agenda to approve Mr. Rhea's Order to Advertise 2016 unpaid taxes.

Chairman Trent called for a motion to approve the order to advertise.

Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve the order to advertise the 2016 unpaid taxes. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**Hurricane Matthew Recovery Update – Holland Consulting Planners, Chris Hilbert,
Program Administrator**

Chris Hilbert, Program Administrator for Holland Consulting Planners, was present to provide a brief update to the Board about Hurricane Matthew recovery efforts.

He reported that both the Town of Windsor and Bertie County were taking applications for mitigation assistance, and that citizens may apply until the end of February.

Mr. Hilbert also notified the Board that the NC Emergency Management office could be contacting the County in the near future to discuss a resiliency plan project.

Also, Mr. Hilbert discussed a couple of possible grant opportunities that he would be pursuing that could provide funding for flood prevention and a hydrology study. He did, however, caution that one of the grants was a national grant, and that it may be a “long shot” for the County to be considered.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

There were no Board Appointments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon review by Chairman Trent, Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda items C-1 through C-7. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. **Minutes** – Regular Session 1-17-17, Work Session 1-31-17, Closed Session 1-31-17
2. **Grant** – Community Services Block Grant – CADA of NC, Inc.
3. **Fees Report** – Register of Deeds – December 2016
4. **Budget Amendments** which read as follows:

BUDGET AMENDMENT				
		# 17-06		
		DECREASE		DECREASE
12-0025-4531-02	\$	5,302	DSS	12-5380-5399-70 \$ 5,302
TO DECREASE BUDGET TO MATCH ACTUAL CRISIS MONEY RECEIVED				
		DECREASE		DECREASE
12-0025-4586-18	\$	5,302	DSS	12-5380-5411-50 \$ 5,302
TO DECREASE BUDGET TO MATCH ACTUAL LIEAP MONEY RECEIVED (LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM)				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-0011-4111-35	\$	7,200		10-4140-5399-01 \$ 7,200
INCREASE BUD FOR CONTRACT SERVICES - AUDITS TO PAY COUNTY TAX SERVICE (CTS)				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-0050-4855-10	\$	51,450	BLDG UPG	10-6308-5351-11 \$ 11,000
			LANDSCAPE	10-6308-5395-11 \$ 20,450
			RENT	10-6308-5400-00 \$ 20,000
SETUP BUDGET TO ASSIST RELOCATION OF EMS (KATE B. REYNOLDS GRANT)				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-0090-4991-99	\$	20,000		10-4360-5193-00 \$ 20,000
INCREASE BUDGET FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-0090-4991-99	\$	6,000		10-4350-5399-00 \$ 6,000
SETUP BUDGET TO COVER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - WA #1 HOLLAND CONSULTING PLANNERS, INC.				
APPROVED / /2016				

BUDGET AMENDMENT				
		# 17-06		
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-0090-4991-99	\$	20,000	10-4360-5193-00	\$ 20,000
INCREASE BUDGET FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES				

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10-0090-4991-99	\$	6,000	10-4350-5399-00	\$ 6,000
SETUP BUDGET TO COVER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - WA #1				
HOLLAND CONSULTING PLANNERS, INC.				

5. **Proof of Loss Reports** – Hurricane Matthew and authorizing William Roberson, Finance Officer, and Scott Sauer, County Manager, as Primary and Secondary Agents authorized to execute and file applications for state federal assistance under Public Law 93-288 as amended.

6. **Contract** – Airsoft, LLC. (formerly Corrisoft)

7. **Order to Advertise** – unpaid taxes

Upon further discussion, Vice Chairman Bazemore made a **MOTION** to conditionally approve a bid of \$6,100 for the property located at 813 Meadow Road in Colerain (Item C-8). The bid amount will be used to advertise for a 10-day upset period in the Bertie-Ledger Advance. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Additionally, Vice Chairman Bazemore asked to make an addition to the Consent Agenda concerning a resolution of support for the Social Services Block Grant which assists children and adults with housing assistance and self-sufficiency.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** for County staff to draft a Letter of Support for the Social Services Block Grant as requested. Vice Chairman Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

In addition, Melvin Power, Deputy Director of CADA, Andre Rowe, NCWorks Center Manager, were present to answer questions about the Community Services Block Grant application for 2017-2018.

The Board also shared various concerns they have received from citizens regarding the Section 8 program.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Water District I and III – Two \$150,000 grant applications for inventory and assessment of water system infrastructure assets have been prepared by Green Engineering, using the same approach as Water District II’s successful grant application for \$88,000.

Each application to the NC Department of Environmental Quality – Division of Water Infrastructure is requesting a grant amount of \$150,000 with a 5% local match requirement, the majority of which will be calculated as force account (in-kind) staff labor.

County Administration and the Water Department are seeking the Board’s approval to submit their two applications.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the two \$150,000 grant applications for (Water District I and III) inventory and assessment of water system infrastructure assets by Green Engineering using the same approach for Water District II’s successful grant application for \$85,000. Commissioner White **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Discuss new lease for the federal NRCS office located on the 2nd floor of the County Administration Building

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to increase the rent to \$2,400 a month for the term of 15 years per a request made by the NRCS. Vice Chairman Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

County Attorney Smith also briefly reviewed items of concern with the Board regarding the hours of the NRCS office, cleaning products used for the office, the addition of an additional drinking fountain on the second floor, etc.

The Board asked for the County Attorney to see if the \$2,400 amount is accepted, and that County staff would work out the additional details at that time.

Discuss roadside litter pick up – volunteer schedules and any ordinances for trash trucks entering/exiting landfill

Planning Director, Traci White, and Nuisance Abatement Officer, Barry Anderson were present to answer questions, and respond to concerns that Commissioners have received recently about littering and uncovered trucks entering and exiting the County landfill.

Ms. White submitted a copy of the County’s current Solid Waste Management Consulting ordinance, and noted various areas of interest.

She also submitted a copy of NC General Statute that addresses the hauling of waste on NC highways.

Ms. White reiterated that Mr. Anderson was not able to write tickets for litter violations, and that the most he could do was issue a notice of violation. The rest would have to be completed by the Sheriff's Office, or by NC Highway Patrol.

The Board briefly discussed what Republic Services might be able to do assist in ensuring all trucks leaving and entering the landfill are properly covered to prevent trash blowing out onto the road ways.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Commissioner Wesson stated that he had attended a rather packed public meeting hosted by the NC Fish and Wildlife Resources regarding the voluntary expansion of the Roanoke River Refuge. Mr. Wesson reiterated that property owners would not be forced to give up any part of their land to be included in the expansion, and that it would all be completed on a voluntary basis.

Vice Chairman Bazemore stated she would be lobbying with the Human Services Committee in Washington, D.C. The group will lobby against House Speaker Paul Ryan's proposal of increasing the Medicare age from 65 to 67.

Chairman Trent expressed his opposition to House Speaker Ryan's proposal, and informed those present that he, Vice Chairman Bazemore, and Commissioners Wesson and Lee would all be in attendance at the 2017 NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. at the end of February. He also stated that the Commissioners had plans to meet with Representative Butterfield, Senator Burr, and Senator Tillis to discuss the needs of Bertie County after the two recent flooding events.

Commissioner Lee reported that Habitat for Humanity had secured a family as well as a home for a family in the Windsor area, and that there would be a ribbon cutting soon.

Commissioner White reminded the Board about two events: the Student Showcase being held for Bertie County students on Thursday, February 9th, and the Bertie County Arts Council grand reopening on Sunday, February 12th in Windsor.

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

Norman Cherry, President of the Bertie-Martin Community College campus, was present to commend Mr. Rowe of NCWorks for his continued support of continuing education for low income adults.

Dr. Hill, Superintendent of Bertie County Public Schools, was present to encourage the Board to attend the Student Showcase on Thursday, February 9th, and 6:00 PM at Bertie High School.

ADJOURN

Chairman Trent **ADJOURNED** the meeting at 5:20 PM.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board