

Windsor, North Carolina
August 7, 2017
WORK 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
County Attorney Lloyd Smith
Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea
Finance Officer William Roberson
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs
DSS Director Cindy Perry

There were no media members present.

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.

WORK SESSION

Middle Income housing initiative project

Commissioner Wesson briefly updated the Board on the middle-income housing initiative project. An application and plans for the apartment complex are currently in the works, and an application is due by the end of this month.

Mr. Wesson discussed the three (3) different locations being considered which include two properties owned by the County, and one owned by the Town of Windsor all of which are within the Windsor Town Limits, and outside of the flood plain.

The apartment complex will potentially feature 24 units with 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, and will serve as housing for teachers, EMS and Sheriff's Office personnel, as well as other County employees.

The project is estimated to cost between \$2.4 to \$2.8 million dollars, and financed with a 15-year, 0% loan from SECU.

SECU has funded similar projects in Ahoskie and Asheville.

The project has received letters of support from the Town of Windsor, Bertie County Public Schools, and the Bertie Correctional Institution.

If approved by SECU, the project is estimated to be completed by May of 2019.

Commissioner Wesson answered various questions from the Board, and he explained that the Windsor Township Development Commission, a public authority established by the NC General Assembly in 1965.

At this time, Economic Development Director, Steve Biggs, mentioned that the County would saving over \$30,000 on payroll and administrative staff for this project as payroll deductions would be administered by the employers for rent payments, and the County would be maintaining, operating, and managing the property.

County Manager Sauer noted that if any minimal office related tasks were needed, excess capacity was available in both the Administration Department, and in the Planning & Inspections Office.

**Better Beginnings for Bertie Children and partnership
discussions with Superintendent Dr. Hill and DSS**

Superintendent Hill was unable to attend this meeting because of a family emergency.

Various Better Beginnings staff were present including, but not limited to Dr. Denauvo Robinson and Bobbi Holley. CADA Head Start was represented by Director Dianne Bynum. The Bertie County Public School System was represented by Carol Mizelle, Principal of Colerain Elementary, and Tracy Gregory, Principal of Windsor Elementary. The North Carolina Pre-K Program was also present and represented by Katie Willard. The Bertie County Department of Social Services was represented by Director Cindy Perry.

Ms. Holley began by briefly reminding the Board of the organization's mission and vision, and also discussed the latest figures of young children being referred and served by Pre-K programs.

As of June 2017, 298 of 1,132 Bertie Children were enrolled in licenses child care centers either with NC Pre-K of Bertie County Schools or CADA Head Start/Early Head Start.

Additionally, when including the numbers of children birth to age six currently in regulated child care centers and family child care homes, 28.6% of Bertie's children in this age range were receiving some form of license child care, 72% of children in Bertie are not listed in any sort of child care programs.

Each entity briefly discussed ways of better communication between each agency, and working towards the same goal which is to enroll as many Bertie children in Pre-K programs as possible.

“Sounds to Sea” and “One School, One Book” programming update

Two Bertie County elementary school principals were present to discuss these programs: Tracey Gregory of Windsor Elementary, and Carol Mizelle of Colerain Elementary.

Ms. Gregory and Ms. Mizelle briefly discussed the successful “Sound to Sea” field trip conducted last year for elementary students. The purpose of the trip is to introduce students to water ecosystems and provide opportunities hand on learning.

Students then write about their experiences and a book is created using their writings, drawings, pictures, and other papers.

Each principal thanked the Board for their support of this program and that they were looking forward to this year’s event in October.

Additionally, Ms. Gregory and Ms. Mizelle discussed a new program that they have introduced to each school called the “One School, One Book” project. The program is designed to bring students together during a 30-minute period every school day to read the same book in grades K-5.

This year’s book that has been chosen is called “Hatchet” by Gary Poulson. This program, as well as various vocabulary instruction, has been proven to increase test scores and has been utilized in other areas of the state.

The Board commended Principals Gregory and Mizelle for all they do each day for the children and parents of Bertie County.

Review Closed Session Minutes for approval, release, or partial release

This item was deferred to a later part of the 4:00 PM meeting.

RECESS

Chairman Trent **RECESSED** this meeting until 4:00 PM today in the same location. At this time, the Board took a brief tour of the new Mobile Command Center with Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board