

Windsor, North Carolina
September 18, 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: Stewart White, District II
 Tammy A. Lee, District III
 John Trent, District IV
 Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: Ronald “Ron” Wesson, District I

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer
 Clerk to the Board Sarah S. Tinkham
 Finance Officer William Roberson
 Cooperative Extension Director Billy Barrow
 Parks & Recreation Director Donna Mizelle
 Economic Development Director Steve Biggs

No media members were present during this session.

WORK SESSION

Lunch with ECU’s Dr. Stan Riggs and presentation of next phase flood prevention options, Z. Smith Reynolds grant and local funding from Town and County of \$50,000 each

At approximately 1:00 PM following lunch, Chairman Trent called the meeting to order.

Dr. Stan Riggs, Mr. David Hodges, and Dr. Paige Viren from ECU were present for the following presentation.

Dr. Riggs, via PowerPoint, presented various topography maps, and discussed how sea level rise has contributed to the flooding in Windsor during the last two (2) decades.

He also discussed the three goals that the County should strive to achieve if they continue working with Dr. Riggs on a flood prevention plan.

Dr. Riggs also discussed the water ways in the area, and how those are impacted during significant storm surge from the coast.

The Board thanked the entire ECU team for attending today's work session and for the enlightening presentation.

Chairman Trent asked the Board if there was any discussion and what their opinions were on moving forward on the scope of work with Dr. Riggs and ECU including a \$50,000 sponsorship to the NC LOW Study to model flooding dynamics in the Bertie County coastal system. The Town of Windsor has also committed to a \$50,000 contribution for flood prevention.

Chairman Trent made a **MOTION** for the Board to move forward with the \$50,000 contribution to the NC LOW nonprofit organization led by Dr. Riggs in accordance with the Town of Windsor, and to move forward with a flood prevention plan coordinated by Dr. Riggs and the ECU team. Vice Chairman Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED**.

The record reflects a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Wesson being absent, but his affirmative vote by proxy signifies a 5-0, unanimous decision.

Dr. Paige Viren – discuss potential recommendations for the draft countywide recreation comprehensive plan

Dr. Viren briefly discussed the results of the public forums held last year that discussed recreation needs in the County.

Per the forums, Dr. Viren presented her conclusions which showed that the largest recreational demand was outdoor, County funded recreation options such as walking trails, paddling launches, biking paths, and a multi-use facility. This multi-use facility could house a large, more equipped YMCA, a swimming pool, or an event space.

In addition, environmental conservation and accessibility to parks were frequently suggested.

Dr. Viren requested that the Board complete a short survey, as well as to read over her conclusions in full by the end of next week. She also asked for any feedback the Board may have on the public forums.

Review responses to RFQ for Golden Leaf project and schedule design team interview

County Manager Sauer mentioned that six (6) firms had submitted proposals for the design, planning, and construction drawings for a joint facility that will house the Bertie Cooperative Extension Office as well as Lawrence Memorial Library.

The County Manager requested that the Board consider an all-day session to hear all six presentations.

The proposed date given by the Board was Tuesday, October 17th at 9:00 AM inside the Commissioners Room.

This date is subject to change depending on the availability of the six different firms.

Current status of Bertie County Public School System, Superintendent update

County Manager Sauer reported that last week, the County requested a copy of the Board of Education's adopted budget resolution for the year FY 2017-2018. There has been no response. A copy of the adopted resolution and a copy of the meeting minutes will again be requested, and Mr. Sauer will seek the County Attorney's assistance in directing this communication to the legal counsel for the school system.

The NC General Statutes require that the school system must file a copy of the adopted budget resolution with the County Finance Officer within five (5) days of its approval by the Board of Education. Likewise, the NC General Statutes require that the school budget resolution provide an appropriation for any lawful deficit from the prior year. As discussed with the Board previously, Mr. Sauer will contact the independent auditor for the school system to verify the status of the audit process for the year ended June 30, 2017.

County Manager's review of latest FEMA reports and other projects

At this time, County Manager Sauer briefly addressed several recent news articles that announced a freezing of FEMA dollars to counties impacted by Hurricane Matthew. This freezing of funds is due to the two current Hurricanes, Irma and Harvey, and the federal agency currently being "out of funding" unless Congress intervenes.

Per a conversation with NC Emergency Management Director, Mike Sprayberry, Mr. Sauer shared that the funds are simply delayed, but that most of the County's projects and the funds needed have already been obligated. The only project that has not yet been obligated funds is the temporary library facility, but funds are expected to be obligated to that project once the FEMA funds are unfrozen.

RECESS

At this time, the Board took a short recess until 4:00 PM.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board