

JOINT SPECIAL MEETING

MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BERTIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BERTIE-MARTIN JAIL COMMISSION

NC TeleCenter, Class Room
415 East Boulevard, Williamston, NC 27892
Monday, March 26, 2018

Martin County Board of Commissioners

Elmo "Butch" Lilley, Commissioner/Chair
Tommy Bowen, Commissioner/Vice Chair
Ronnie Smith, Commissioner
Dempsey Bond, Jr.
Joe R. Ayers (did not attend)
David Bone, County Manager
Marion B. Thompson, County Clerk
Cindy Ange, Finance Officer

Bertie County Commissioners

Ernestine Byrd Bazemore, Chair
Ronald "Ron" Wesson, Vice Chair
Tammy A. Lee, Commissioner
John Trent, Commissioner
Stewart White, Commissioner
Scott Sauer, County Manager
Sarah S. Tinkham, County Clerk (on medical leave)

Bertie-Martin Regional Jail Commission – Board of Directors

Bertie County

John Trent, Commissioner
Dianne Bazemore
Lawrence Carter, Jr.
Terrence Whitehurst, Administrator
Lydra Freeman, Deputy Administrator/Secretary
John Holley, Bertie County Sheriff

Martin County

Dempsey Bond, Jr. Commissioner/Chair
John MacDonald
William Stalls

At 7:00 p.m. the joint special was called to order by Chairman Elmo “Butch” Lilley, Martin County Board of Commissioners; Board Chair Ernestine Bazemore, Bertie County Board of Commissioners; and Commissioner Dempsey Bond, Jr., Chairman, Bertie-Martin Jail Commission. Martin County Vice Chairman Tommy Bowen led the pledge of allegiance and gave the invocation. Martin County Chairman Lilley provided the official welcome and each governing body confirmed approval for the agenda by consensus.

Bertie Martin Regional Jail Administrator Mr. Terrence Whitehurst provided a detailed history of staffing concerns and challenges at the Jail, noting that eight (8) positions are open, with seven vacancies and one staff member unavailable and on extended medical leave. Mr. Whitehurst also listed the recent efforts by the BMRJ Commission to increase salaries in each of the past three fiscal years in addition to a one-time employee bonus last December. Administrator Whitehurst shared a staffing position budget work sheet and explained the recent board action by the BMRJ Commission to address salary compression with adjustments based on a two percent (2.0%) increase for the base salary applied for each service year for existing staff.

There was much discussion and dialogue between the two Boards of County Commissioners, Jail Administrator Whitehurst and Sheriff John Holley. Data was also shared comparing Detention Officer salaries from several surrounding counties, and there was discussion of providing a sign-on bonus for new staff and other recruiting strategies. It was also understood and discussed that time is of the essence and that there exist certain liabilities for not addressing this matter in a proactive manner.

It was agreed by consensus that the Bertie Martin Jail Commission will revisit its recommendations and be prepared to present specific steps and actions for both County governing bodies to consider within the next 45 to 60 days.

Martin County Chairman Lilley, Bertie County Board Chair Bazemore and BMRJ Chairman Bond spoke of their respective support and cooperation to address the concerns presented by Jail Administrator Whitehurst.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott T. Sauer
County Manager

Ernestine Bazemore, Chair

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board