

Windsor, North Carolina
April 16, 2018
REGULAR MEETING

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regular meeting today 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 Tinkham
 Assistant County Jonathan Huddleston
 Finance Officer William Roberson
 Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper
 EMS Division Chief Crystal Freeman
 Economic Development Director Steve Biggs
 ICMA/NCACC Management Fellow Dominique Walker

Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald and Thadd White of the Bertie-Ledger Advance were present from the media.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bazemore called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Wesson led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments during this section.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Bazemore called for a motion to approve the agenda as prepared. Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve the agenda as prepared with the deferment of items D-1 and D-4. These items will be discussed at an upcoming work session. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

American Cancer Society Relay for Life Proclamation presented by Ms. Jo Ann Jordan

Ms. Jo Ann Jordan, Chair of the Bertie County Relay for Life planning committee, was present to provide an update about this year's event which will take place on Friday, May 18 at the old Bertie High School. She also presented the Board with an additional plaque that recognizes Bertie County as the highest fundraising County (per capita) in the nation with \$211,000 raised for the 2017 event.

Additionally, Ms. Jordan requested this year's Relay for Life resolution declaring May 2018 as Relay for Life Month in Bertie County. Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the resolution. Vice Chairman Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Board also took this time to participate in a photo opportunity for local media.

Comprehensive Recreation Plan – project update by Dr. Paige Viren and Mr. David Hodges

Dr. Paige Viren, and Mr. David Hodges of ECU and NC State University presented their draft, comprehensive master recreation plan for Bertie County. Dr. Viren requested the approval of the Board pending their suggested changes to the draft they had just received.

Vice Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** to conditionally approve the comprehensive master recreation plan. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Lee commended Dr. Viren and Mr. Hodges for their work on this plan, and also specifically thanked Dr. Viren for assisting the town of Aulander with their PARTF grant application.

There was no further discussion for this item.

Bertie County Schools – update from Superintendent Dr. Catherine Edmonds

Dr. Catherine Edmonds, Superintendent of Bertie County Public Schools, along with several members of the Board of Education, introduced various members of the Bertie County Public Schools staff, as well as several students.

The focus of tonight’s presentation: the STEM program at Bertie Middle School, the Sound to Sea program, and the “One Book, One District” initiative just launched in October 2017.

Three students were present from Bertie Middle School to discuss the following topics:

1. Justin Dameron – Magnetic levitation
2. Jazalyn Lewis – Antibiotics
3. Asia Cooper – Cultivating the Future, Glove Gardens

At this time, various school principals and staff members discussed the very successful Sound to Sea program that was sponsored by Bertie County. Commissioners were presented with a short video as well as a copy of the narratives each student completed upon completion of the program.

The Sound to Sea program allows students to study outside of the classroom through hands on demonstrations in a “sound” environment, as well as a “sea” environment all without leaving Bertie County.

Lastly, the “One Book, One District” initiative was deemed a great success by all students and faculty members present, and that the chosen selection “Hatchet” by Gary Paulsen, provided a unifying activity for all members of the school’s community.

Chair Bazemore commended all teachers, students, and staff for a job well done, and for very informative and detailed presentations.

Each member of the Board also received a copy of this year’s “One Book, One District” selection that had been signed by students in various grade levels.

Vice Chairman Wesson mentioned that he had just received news that the Dolly Parton Foundation would be accepting book submissions from local communities and school districts which could provide grants for additional “One Book, One District” selections in the future. He also suggested that these selections be shared with the Mother Read program currently being facilitated by Better Beginnings for Bertie’s Children.

Trillium – 2017 annual report and update provided by Mr. Bland Baker and Ms. Hope Eley

Mr. Bland Baker, Regional Director of Trillium, and Ms. Hope Eley, Local Coordinator for Youth and Adult Services, presented a brief PowerPoint presentation detailing Trillium’s 2017 annual report.

Each year, the report touches on various health needs, risks, and programs in the County. This is also an opportunity for the Commissioners share their concerns or requests with Trillium.

Vice Chairman Wesson expressed his concern that funding could be cut from Trillium if more isn’t invested in providing better mental health services, and additional bed space, for those suffering with OPIOID addiction.

Chair Bazemore thanked Mr. Baker for his report, and commended Trillium for the progress they have made in the last year as shown in the annual report.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Poverty Commission

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to appoint the following individuals to the Poverty Commission: Curt Kedley, Cindy Perry, Ronald Roberson, and Nicholas Shook. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Nursing Home/Adult Care Home Advisory Committee

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to appoint the following individuals to the Nursing Home/Adult Care Home Advisory Committee: Dr. Susia Smallwood.. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Region Q Workforce Development Board

County Manager Sauer reminded the Board that a public-sector appointment was needed for the Region Q Workforce Development Board. Bertie County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Catherine Edmonds, was suggested, or a member of her staff.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to conditionally appoint Dr. Catherine Edmonds, or an appropriate member of her staff, to the Region Q Workforce Development Board. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. **Minutes** – Regular Session 3-12-18, Special Meeting 3-26-18, Joint Session 3-26-18
2. **Fees Report** – March 2018
3. **Tax Release Journals** - February and March 2018

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes, Register of Deeds Fees Report, and tax release journals. Vice Chairman Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

4. **Budget Amendment**

Vice Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve Budget Amendment #18-09 and Project Amendment #18-06. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

5. Land Sale –

Vice Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** to accept the offer \$4,200 made by Debbie Bond-Dunlaw for two lots located in the Windsor Township. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

6. CPTA Annual Agreement –

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the proposed FY2018-2019 agreement for transportation services with CPTA. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

- 1. Review of two Bertie County Noise Ordinances adopted July 3, 2000**
 - a. Sound measurement standards**
 - b. Restrictions and prohibitions for Unnecessary, Unreasonably Loud, and Disturbing Sounds**

This item was deferred.

Review and consider resolution approving merger for Hertford County with Albemarle Regional Health Services

County Manager Sauer noted that with this new addition, Albemarle Regional Health Services would be the largest regional health organization in the State. Albemarle Regional Health Services will provide care to approximately 160,000 citizens in and around Eastern North Carolina.

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the resolution in support of the merger of the Hertford County Public Health Authority with Albemarle Regional Health Services. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

A copy of the resolution reads as follows:



BERTIE COUNTY

106 DUNDEE STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 530
WINDSOR, NORTH CAROLINA 27983
(252) 794-5300
FAX: (252) 794-5327
WWW.CO.BERTIE.NC.US

**BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS**

ERNESTINE (BYRD) BAZEMORE, Chair
RONALD "RON" WESSON, Vice Chairman
JOHN TRENT
TAMMY A. LEE
STEWART WHITE

**RESOLUTION FOR THE MERGER OF HERTFORD COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT WITH ALBEMARLE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES
WHICH INCLUDES THE COUNTIES OF PASQUOTANK, PERQUIMANS,
CAMDEN, CHOWAN, CURRITUCK, BERTIE, AND GATES**

WHEREAS, the Pasquotank County Health Department was established in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Camden County Health Departments joined together in 1942 to form a District Health Department; and

WHEREAS, in 1949 Chowan County Health Department joined the Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden Health Department to form the Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan District Health Department (PPCC); and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Currituck County Health Department joined PPCC to form Albemarle Regional Health Services; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Bertie County Health Department joined Albemarle Regional Health Services; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Gates County Health Department joined Albemarle Regional Health Services; and

WHEREAS, after due and diligent consideration, the Hertford County Board of Commissioners desire to take action to join Albemarle Regional Health Services, which will create the Albemarle Regional Health Services, consisting of Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie, Gates and Hertford Counties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bertie County Board of Commissioners in session duly convened, by adoption of this resolution does hereby create Albemarle Regional Health Services consisting of Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie, Gates, and Hertford Counties.

ARTICLE I

The name shall be Albemarle Regional Health Services, which will include Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie, Gates and Hertford Counties.

ARTICLE II
MISSION

The respective counties recognize that a unified purpose and direction of the public health system is necessary to ensure that all citizens in their jurisdictional areas have equal access to essential public health services. The Pasquotank, Perquimans, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Bertie, Gates and Hertford County Boards of Commissioners declare that the mission of Albemarle Regional Health Services is to promote and contribute to the highest level of health possible for the people that they serve.


ARTICLE III
DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH

The policy-making body of Albemarle Regional Health Services shall be a District Board of Health composed of 18 members in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 130A-37.

ARTICLE IV
ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES

The Albemarle Regional Health Services Board of Health agrees to adopt and assumes responsibility for the enforcement of any and all existing local health ordinances or rules, previously adopted as Albemarle Regional Health Services and any ordinances or rules previously adopted by the Hertford County Board of Health that are not consistent there with.

ADOPTED, this the 16th day of April 2018.


Ernestine Byrd Bazemore, Chair
Bertie County Board of Commissioners

ATTESTED:


Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board

Review road naming process and petition requirements

The Board briefly reviewed the policy that was revised in 2015 and discussed a particular request received for a dirt road that has yet to be named.

Vice Chairman Wesson inquired with the Assistant County Attorney about whether or not the policy can be reviewed again to make it easier for land owners with enough signatures to successfully change the name of a road without having to track down owners and their heirs in other states.

The Board agreed that this item should also be placed on an upcoming work session agenda but did not feel the current request needed to be delayed since it is requesting to name a brand-new road that is currently without a designation.

Private Roads (public safety access for emergency response vehicles)

This item was deferred.

Calendar review: discuss possible dates for legislative meetings with members of NC General Assembly delegation representing Bertie County in advance of upcoming short session

The Board discussed April 30th as a potential date for legislative meetings with members of the NC General Assembly that currently serve the interest of Bertie County citizens.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

County Manager Sauer announced the return of Clerk to the Board, Sarah Tinkham. Ms. Dominique Walker, ICMA/NCACC Management Fellow, was also formally introduced to the Board for the first time.

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The Assistant County Attorney had no report at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments during this session.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Chair Bazemore

Chair Bazemore stated that she had participated in the Site X Oyster Roast back in mid-March. She stated that she was really looking forward to the continued historical excavation of the site, and that she was excited to say that “the Lost Colony has been found in Bertie County.” Next, she expressed that she was glad to see the inclusion of the old John B. Bond School in the recreation master plan just submitted tonight.

At this time, the Board briefly discussed the need to find alternative, potential sites for the new Library and Cooperative Extension facility. This item will be discussed in more detail at an upcoming work session.

Lastly, the Chair reminded County Manager Sauer about determining a date for an upcoming town hall meeting that the Board would like to host.

Commissioner Trent

Commissioner Trent discussed various updates including: “ground breaking” on the new EMS Station and Blue Jay Recreation Center were slated to occur in the next 30 days, that courthouse security renovations had begun and a bullet proof glass vendor was being sought. Also, school safety meetings were recently conducted, and the school system has been made aware of any suggested action. Lastly, a K-9 drug unit was recently deployed in different County schools, and the initiative was well received.

Commissioner Lee

Commissioner Lee discussed an upcoming reverse town hall that was due to place in Chapel Hill in the upcoming weeks. The town hall’s focus will be the prevention of gun violence in schools, and that a Bertie student may be participating on the panel. Mrs. Lee also discussed an upcoming training she would be attending in South Carolina with the NACo Justice Public Safety Board. The training is not being sponsored by County tax dollars.

Commissioner White

Commissioner White gave no remarks at this time.

Vice Chairman Wesson

Vice Chairman Wesson announced his excitement at seeing Better Beginnings for Bertie's Children recognized on the state level for their success in locating 3 and 4-year-old children in need of Pre-K education in the County. He also discussed his latest work with Youth Bertie to clean up a set of old tennis courts in Windsor, as well as the placement of several picnic tables near the sight.

CLOSED SESSION

County Manager Sauer reminded the Board about a brief Closed Session under statute number N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3). Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Session. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to return to Open Session. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Chair Bazemore asked for a motion for County staff to assemble a resolution for Maurice Davenport of Bazemore Temple, and Rachel Morris Hill's 90th birthday. Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve the requests. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

RECESS

Chair Bazemore **RECESSED** the meeting until 2:00 PM, Monday, April 30, 2018 inside this same location.

Ernestine Bazemore, Chair

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board