

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**June 4, 2018**  
**WORK SESSION**

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  
Tammy A. Lee, District III  
John Trent, District IV  
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: Stewart White, District II

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer  
Clerk to the Board Sarah Tinkham  
Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston  
Finance Officer William Roberson  
ICMA/NCACC Management Fellow Dominique Walker  
Cooperative Extension Director Billy Barrow

**WORK SESSION**

**Hurricane Matthew Recovery Update by Chris Hilbert, Holland Consulting Planners**

County Manager Sauer referred to the outline of joint recovery efforts by the County and Town of Windsor in the agenda item abstract:

**Hurricane Matthew Recovery Efforts**—and joint leadership by Bertie County and Town of Windsor

\$ 6,000,000	HMGP—(Town of Windsor & Bertie County) multi-jurisdiction grant (buyouts & elevations)
\$ 1,000,000	HM—NC DRA (County) in state funds for up to \$50,000 repairs on 17 LMI houses
\$ 777,500	HM—CDBG DR (County) LMI for 2 reconstructions, 4 substantial rehab & library lease
\$ 1,200,000	HM—FY2017 FMA (Town of Windsor) for 10 repetitive loss list NFIP properties
\$ 229,000	HM—FY 2015 FMA (Town of Windsor) for 2 residential properties (funded prior to HM)
\$ 750,000	HM-CDBG NR (Town of Windsor) Neighborhood Revitalization—announced May 3, 2018

To start, Chris Hilbert addressed several questions he had received about the HMGP grant which would be used to buy out or elevate homes in both the County and Town of Windsor.

He mentioned that he had recently had a discussion with Windsor Town Administrator, Allen Castelloe. In these discussions, Mr. Hilbert was brought up to speed on a conversation Mr. Castelloe had on May 31<sup>st</sup> with NC Emergency Manager, Mr. Mike Sprayberry.

The allocation of \$6,000,000 is reserved for the Town of Windsor and Bertie County.

During that conversation, Mr. Castelloe was told by Mr. Sprayberry that he was hoping to receive FEMA-approval of funding for the HMGP grant program by June 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was stated also that the approval could come as late as July.

Mr. Hilbert also discussed that FEMA is a very reactive entity that is forced to redirect staff from post-disaster related paperwork to the aid of citizens just starting to begin the recovery after a storm exits their area, and damage can be assessed. For example, FEMA staff that were assigned to handle post-disaster paperwork for Hurricane Matthew (2016) were immediately pulled away in 2017 to assist in the aid of Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico after Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, respectively.

This will, of course, present delays in funds being dispersed for Hurricane Matthew which effected Bertie County and the Town of Windsor in September 2016.

Also, an additional hinderance is funding for housing buy outs and elevation projects must go through a housing entity on the State level, and at this time, North Carolina does not currently have a staff or department that can meet these needs.

Thus far, 34 properties have been identified as eligible for buyouts, and 11 properties are eligible for elevation under the HMGP guidelines.

Mr. Hilbert also briefly discussed the DRA grant which is a list that has been compiled of homes that did not qualify for the HMGP grant and are seeking for their homes to be elevated above flood stages. It was noted that some of these homes had been addressed by volunteer organizations already.

Planning Director, Traci White, was also present to answer questions about how these projects would be best carried out especially as they relate to flood stages and ideal home elevation levels.

To move forward, County Manager, Scott Sauer, requested that the Board consider a motion to authorize him to have the authorization to approve bids for administrative, legal, survey work and subcontractors to perform the work for the DRA program once funding is received. Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to give authorization to the County Manager as requested. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Chair Bazemore expressed her desire for another town hall-style meeting so that the public, and all of those effected by the floods, could be updated on this new information. This could also be an opportunity for citizens to ask questions of Mr. Hilbert and his knowledge of each grant initiative.

It was proposed to hold this town hall later this month at the Windsor Community Building.

On another matter, County Manager Sauer announced the Barbara Doll of NC State was ready to present her final report, and that if there was no objection, he would be reaching out to her for the July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

County Manager Sauer asked if the Board was interested in reviewing a few discussion items that would need their attention during the regular meeting at 6:00 PM.

Several of the discussion items were reviewed but no action was taken at this time.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) to go into closed session to consult with the County Attorney in order to preserve

the attorney-client privilege that exists between the attorney and this public body. Vice Chairman Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION**

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

**RECESS**

Chair Bazemore **RECESSED** the meeting until tomorrow, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

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Ernestine Bazemore, Chair

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Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board