

**Windsor, North Carolina
July 2, 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
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: John Trent, District IV

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer
Clerk to the Board Sarah Tinkham
County Attorney Lloyd Smith
Finance Officer William Roberson
ICMA/NCACC Management Fellow Dominique Walker
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs
Register of Deeds Annie Wilson

Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald was present from the media.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bazemore called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner White led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NC State Trooper, Sergeant Kevin Briggs, introduced himself to the Board and public present. He noted that he was originally stationed in Edenton, but recently accepted a promotion and chose to be re-stationed in Bertie County. He shared that he was very “community oriented,” and that he has chosen the mantra of “it takes team work to make the dream work.”

There were no other public comments.

APPOINTMENTS

(1) Mr. Carl Lee, Chair of the Northeast Human Development Center – report regarding the former John B. Bond School in Lewiston-Woodville

Mr. Carl Lee, Chair of the Northeast Human Development Center, and a representative of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church was present to receive an update from the Board about any action that has been taken since his last update in November 2017.

Mr. Lee had requested originally visited the Board to seek assistance in reopening John B. Bond High School to provide a location for recreation opportunities and other community events.

After a brief discussion, it was noted that all parties had left the meeting with different ideas of how to proceed with this initiative.

County Manager Sauer assured Mr. Lee that the Board had considered his proposal and had also decided to include an assessment of the John B. Bond High School in the County's pending recreation comprehensive plan.

To continue moving forward, Chair Bazemore requested that the Bertie County Board of Commissioners, Northeast Human Development Board, and the Town of Lewiston Board should all jointly meet to discuss this project.

A meeting has been set for 7:00PM on Monday, July 23, 2018 at Mount Olive Baptist Church with all pertinent governing bodies.

(2) NCDOT Update by Jerry Jennings, District Engineer for Division I

Jerry Jennings, District Engineer for Division I, provided a report to the Board about the current and future NCDOT projects that are pending in Bertie County.

Current projects include a bridge preservation on NC 45 over the Roanoke River, as well as a bridge replacement on SR1361/Jeff White Road.

For more information, and to see a presentation of all of the projects, visit <https://www.co.bertie.nc.us>.

**(3) Board of Elections Director, Sheila Holloman – request to change early voting location
from Board of Elections Office to Windsor
Community Building**

This item was withdrawn from tonight's meeting agenda.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

CADA Board

Commissioner White made a **MOTION** to appoint Cindy Perry to the CADA Board. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. **Minutes** – Regular Session 6-4-18, Work Session 6-4-18, Closed Session 6-4-18, Budget Work Session 6-5-18, and Budget Public Hearing 6-11-18

2. **Fees Report** – June 2018

Vice Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the items above. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

3. **Budget Amendments**

Vice Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the item above. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

4. **Resolution** -- adding Quarter Cent Sales Tax Referendum to November 2018 Mid-term Election Ballot

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the item above. Vice Chairman Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

5. **Council on Aging**: revised HCCBG County Funding Plan for FY 2019 and Interim Healthcare Contract Agreement, Trumps Food Service contract extension

Commissioner Wesson expressed concerns for not bidding out the food service contract.

County Manager Sauer noted that the Board approved the contract and extension at a previous meeting.

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the 3-part, Council on Aging item above. Commissioner White **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

6. **New audit Requirement** -- announced by the NC Office of the State Auditor on March 20, 2018 for testing participant eligibility for DHHS programs including Medicaid, and approve letter of engagement for Jeff Best, CPA for additional testing procedures

Before the Board voted, County Attorney, Lloyd Smith, inquired if a schedule of fees was included with Jeff Best's letter of engagement.

County Manager Sauer clarified that this letter of engagement is an addendum to the original letter due to the newly announced regulations from the NC State Auditor.

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the item above. Vice Chairman Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

7. **Tax Release Journal** – May 2018

Commissioner White made a **MOTION** to approve the item above. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. Revaluation Project Update by Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea

This item was deferred until August 6, 2018.

2. Review and consider Bertie County Regional Water System Local Water Supply Plan

This item was recommended for approval by Water Department Superintendent, Ricky Spivey.

Vice Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the item Bertie County Regional Water System Local Supply Plan. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

3. Discuss Republic Services proposed franchise amendment and extension of the landfill host agreement, and establish timeline of required advertising and public hearings

County Attorney Smith reminded the Board of the proposed timeline for the Republic Services franchise amendment which requires 2 public hearing advertisements and a public hearing.

The date of the public hearing was set for Monday, August 6th at 6:00 PM at this location.

Vice Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the public hearing advertising schedule and the public hearing date of August 6th at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

4. First reading: proposed 2019 meeting schedule, Board of Commissioners, 2019 State Holiday schedule

The Board briefly reviewed the proposed meeting schedule.

Commissioner Lee inquired if the Board would consider keeping the 6:00 PM start time for regular meetings instead of moving it to 10:00 AM as proposed. She expressed concern with the public being able to attend.

Vice Chairman Wesson also shared the same concerns and requested that work session dates be scattered throughout the meeting schedule. He felt that scheduled, periodic work sessions would be very productive for the Board.

The Board had no objection to the work sessions being held at 10:00 AM.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

County Manager Sauer reaffirmed the County's operating hours for July 3, 2018. He stated that the work day would be "business as usual" and that it was a very important day for the Food Bank of the Albemarle. The regional food bank would be hosting a large distribution event at the Council on Aging building where 400 seniors were expected to attend.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS

County Attorney Smith reported that a legal counsel had been achieved for the OPIOD litigation case. The law firm retained by the County is McHugh Fuller Law Group, PLLC. The law firm will pursue all civil remedies against those in the chain of distribution of prescription opiates responsible for the opioid epidemic which is plaguing Bertie County, North Carolina, including, but not limited to, filing a claim for public nuisance to abate the damages caused thereby.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments during this section.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner White

Commissioner White gave no remarks at this time.

Commissioner Lee

Commissioner Lee announced that Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) has officially absorbed an additional county, Hertford County, to its regional health system. ARHS now operates in eight (8) counties and has set a successful precedent for other health systems across the State.

Mrs. Lee also asked for prayers as she embarks on a mission trip to Micronesia in the coming weeks.

Lastly, she reminded all present of the 4th of July festivities in Windsor beginning at 5:00 PM tomorrow, Tuesday, July 3rd.

Chair Bazemore

Chair Bazemore reported that the Office of Archives and History and the North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Advisory Committee approved a marker for the late Father Aaron Bazemore. Mr. Bazemore died in 1992 after serving as founder and pastor of St. John, the first Church of God in Christ ministry. The church was founded in 1911.

Vice Chairman Wesson

Vice Chairman Wesson announced that on June 12th, the Bertie-Hertford Community Foundation received a grant to conduct swimming lessons for children.

Also, he reiterated that the Blue Jay Recreation Committee had received an endowment from a citizen which will increase each year. Upon this citizen's death, the Committee would also receive a portion of this individual's estate.

Mr. Wesson also announced that the Windsor Rotary Club would not pursue a 2018 Pound the Sound event with the Windsor-Bertie Chamber of Commerce. There was hope, however, for a larger, regionally sponsored event.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – 5 YEAR SERVICE AWARD,
COUNTY MANAGER SCOTT SAUER

At this time, Chair Bazemore asked for the Board of Commissioners to stand in honor of 5-years of dedicated service by County Manager, Scott Sauer.

Chair Bazemore thanked Mr. Sauer for his diligent work over the last 5 years especially during the County’s most trying times during Hurricane Matthew and Tropical Storm Julia.

A plaque was presented to Mr. Sauer commemorate the milestone and a photo opportunity was granted to the press.

At this time, there was no other business for the Board to conduct.

ADJOURN

Chair Bazemore **ADJOURNED** the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Ernestine Bazemore, Chair

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board