

**Windsor, North Carolina  
July 31, 2018  
WORK SESSION**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a work session today inside the Roanoke-Cashie River Center, 112 W. Water Street, Windsor. The following members were present or absent:

Present: Ronald "Ron" Wesson, District I  
John Trent, District IV  
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: Stewart White, District II  
Tammy A. Lee, District III

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer  
Clerk to the Board Sarah Tinkham  
Finance Officer William Roberson  
ICMA/NCACC Management Fellow Dominique Walker  
County Attorney Lloyd Smith

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

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Trent gave the Invocation.

## **WORK SESSION**

### **Golden LEAF Foundation (GLF) Projects**

#### **NCSU Cashie River Basin storm water control and flow diversion feasibility study:**

The Board has received the final report as of July 2, 2018.

A date was needed so that the study conductors could host a public presentation of their report in conjunction with NCLOW study update by Dr. Stan Riggs.

After reviewing their schedules, the Board members proposed a date of September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The location discussed was the Bertie High School Auditorium and the date itself could change based on the schedules of the two other commissioners that are currently absent from this meeting.

The next step the County would need to follow is the hiring of an engineering firm to implement any viable flooding solutions. There was some discussion also about reintegrating the various mills and mill ponds into the flood prevention plan.

### **Teacher Housing Initiative**

County Manager Sauer reported that SECU Foundation financing was approved for the Windsor Township Development Commission with two contingencies: legislation status and NC Local Government Commission's written approval of County's role as property manager, which needs to be further clarified in the Memorandum of Understanding, and verbal approval on financing thus far.

Vice Chairman Wesson stated that the needed written approval should be received by the end of this week. The SECU Foundation mentioned the money is there when the County is ready as long as the County will be the "managerial body" of the project, Vice Chairman Wesson continued.

For the media present, the Board made specific clarification that "the money" is being borrowed by the Windsor Township Development Commission, and the County would not handle the financial side of the project.

There was also additional discussion about the logistics of maintaining and providing proper response to renters with plumbing and other issues that might arise with each apartment.

## **Library/Cooperative Extension Joint Use Facility**

GLF is seeking definitive plan of action.

Phase One Environmental Scan is underway, as due diligence in advance of exercising option to purchase.

## **ICMA/NCACC Management Fellow Updates**

ICMA/NCACC Management Fellow, Dominique Walker provided a Poverty Commission update. She reported that a program called Reconnect NC was looking for submissions for five (5) counties to participate in a pilot program that is designed to explore the root cause of disconnect in select communities across the state and work with partners and community stakeholders to identify solutions to reconnect rural and urban areas.

County Manager Sauer noted that if Bertie's Poverty Commission was selected to participate, it could require travel expenses for members of the Poverty Commission to attend various meetings across the state. A budget amendment will be forthcoming if the project is approved for Bertie County, noted Mr. Sauer.

Mr. Sauer also stated that the County could utilize a current relationship with Enterprise Rent A Car to assist in the transportation costs, and also noted that the Board could expect budget amendments in the future to assist with this endeavor.

The consensus of the Board was to forward and keep them informed of any further updates and whether or not Bertie County is selected to participate.

On another note, Mr. Sauer encouraged the Board to consider sending Ms. Walker to the ICMA National Conference this September in Baltimore, MD. He stated that these conferences are always very well done and provide great opportunities for networking and professional development. Per the ICMA/NCACC contract of Miss Walker's internship, the ICMA offers waived registration fees to fellows, and the County would only be responsible for hotel, mileage/travel, and meal expenses. He reiterated to the Board that a budget amendment would also be needed for this item as it was not considered during the latest budget cycle.

Lastly, Ms. Walker discussed her presentation planned for later today with Bertie County Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Catherine Edmonds. Ms. Walker's goal was to introduce the mission of the Equal Justice Initiative, as well as to suggest a book entitled, "Just Mercy" to the school system as a part of the "One Book, One District" project. She also wanted to propose that a select group of students be sent to Montgomery, Alabama to visit the memorials at the Equal Justice Initiative headquarters.

### **Letter received by Holley Trash Service from Republic Services**

Late last week, Coleman Holley of Holley Trash Service received a letter from Republic Services notifying him that he would be charged a tipping fee of \$54.00 per ton of refuse brought into the County's landfill. The letter mentioned that Republic believe Mr. Holley was hauling refuse from non-Bertie residents.

After a brief discussion, the Board came to the consensus to have the County Attorney draft a letter on the County's behalf stating their opposition to this tipping fee.

The Board did not feel it was fair to treat government entities such as the Town of Windsor one way, and to treat private services differently regarding tipping fees.

County Attorney Smith iterated several times that the current solid waste franchise agreement is vague in terms of which "persons" should or should not be charged to use the County's landfill, and the Board's argument was that any citizen should be able to dispose of their trash at the County landfill, free of charge, even if this is through a private service such as Holley Trash Service. Especially if Mr. Holley is not hauling industrial waste and is himself a citizen of Bertie County.

The legal team will move forward with a response on behalf of the County about this matter.

### **Lancaster Property—Mr. Albi Albrecht, Architect with MHAworks**

County Manager Sauer, along with Mr. Albi Albrecht of MHAworks, provided a project update for site development and the proposed site plan especially as it relates to the incorporation of project scope adjustments (per meeting with Chair Bazemore and Commissioner Trent on May 23, 2018).

Cost reductions, value engineering and programming adjustments have all been to discussed in order to meet reduced scope of work.

The topographic aspects will be received from the surveyor in the coming days, and that will be added to new versions of the site map for Highway 17/S. King Street just off of near Harrell Heights Road and Lancaster Avenue

The Board also discussed a future joint facility project to replace the current Parks and Rec/Council on Aging building. An additional work session date of September 10<sup>th</sup> was discussed for the Board to see a final project design and site plan concept and to discuss any other ways to incorporate citizen involvement in the project (i.e. donation of benches to outdoor walk ways, etc.)

## CLOSED SESSION

At this time, County Attorney Smith advised the Board that a Closed Session was needed pursuant to **N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)** to consult with the County Attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege that exists between the attorney and this public body and pursuant to **N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(5)** to establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract.

Chair Bazemore called for a motion. Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Session pursuant to **N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)** and **N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(5)**. Vice Chairman Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Chair Bazemore called a motion to return to Open Session. Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to return to Open Session. Vice Chairman Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

County Attorney Smith will review easement and deed restrictions for adjacent property (10.35 acres) near the beach path, and review strategies to address and resolve long term interests.

### **Review and discuss upcoming agenda items for August 6<sup>th</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup> as it relates to:**

The Board briefly discussed several opportunities for the Board to capitalize on the positive changes happening in Bertie via professional style newsletters, social media posts, and other mediums for future publication. The first of which will be one page, 2-sided insert placed into revaluation notices in mid-August. The next would be a 12-page magazine style booklet similar to what community colleges and other government entities in the area have circulated recently.

Additionally, County Manager Sauer reiterated the importance of the quarter cent local option sales tax voter referendum that has been submitted to the Board of Elections for the November 2018 ballot. All Board members present still shared the same desire to see the school system partner with the County to properly advertise this referendum in order to offer teacher supplements.

A Republic Services public hearing was recently postponed until September 10<sup>th</sup>. The public hearing is being held to give citizens the opportunity to share their comments or concern regarding the extension of the franchise renewal amendment and landfill host agreement.

Lastly, the Board discussed the latest updates about the Tri-County Airport Height Restriction and will review mapping of impacted areas and a list impacted of property owners at their next meeting on August 6th.

#### **Other updates:**

County Manager Sauer reported that the Region Q Workforce Development Board recently voted to privatize its service providers and proposed use of County office space currently occupied by CADA and other program partners. At this time, the out of state, for-profit entity, is seeking to occupy the same space for the same rent amount and the County has proposed a monthly rate of \$1,200 which includes utilities.

The First Colony Foundation and Site X project development are still underway and additional excavation on Salmon Creek will begin soon.

County Manager Sauer also reported that a settlement had been reached in a recent EEOC mediation process and that the Board would be presented with a document to approve at their next meeting.

A recent visit was also completed with a representative from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). During this meeting, the representative noted their ongoing work in the County assisting residents with spaying, neutering, vaccinating, and providing complimentary dog houses to those in need of additional assistance with their pets.

County Manager Sauer also received interest from Dr. Dennis Bazemore, Vice President for Student Life, of Campbell University. Dr. Bazemore is interested in supporting an upcoming project involving EMT- Paramedicine program or other matter of public health.

This could also provide an opportunity to improve community health outcomes in which Campbell University may be interested in participating.

Dr. Bazemore will be in Bertie for a visit at 1:00PM on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Board has recently expressed interest in an update of the 2020 Census. At this time, County Manager Sauer reported that no new information had been received.

Also, the Board was looking to receive an updated draft of the comprehensive recreation plan, and County Manager Sauer reported that the ECU/NC State team should be ready to present at the Board's September meeting.

There's still no reopening date set for the Sans Souci ferry, but the rumor is sometime in September.

County Manager Sauer also received word that the Board could be given the opportunity to purchase two buildings near the courthouse that they could consider demolishing in favor of more courthouse parking.

### **Other related long-range planning:**

County Manager Sauer discussed the possibility of an advancement in the EMS and Emergency Medical Dispatch departments involving a training course for Emergency Medical Dispatch to be qualified to offer basic medical support before Paramedics arrive on scene.

This is a popular practice in other various counties, and this can help free up ERs and ambulance vehicles so that they may be better able to respond to life threatening calls. Wellness checks could also be made through this proposed system if all dispatchers were certified.

The County Manager also reported that he had recently been in contact with Chowan County about possibly merging their jail system with the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail. More discussion would be needed possibly between both Boards of Commissioners.

A receptionist position in the Administration department and an Assistant County Manager position will soon be advertised for recruitment.

The Board also received the latest about the Cashie Golf & Country Club property. No official agreement on paper has been drafted yet. Surveying was supposed to be completed by now, but due to rain, this has been postponed – survey should be completed soon in order to facilitate the transfer of two acres to the Town of Windsor for the firefighter training center to be operated by Martin Community College.

The Board discussed a proposal to transfer the Farm Service Agency to former Sheriff's Office building once Cooperative Extension relocates to their new building.

At that time, Administrative building space (former FSA) can be used for relocating Board of Elections and establishing office space for Commissioner constituent consultation and conference room space.

Subsequent, the Sheriff's drug task force staff can be moved into the old Board of Elections space adjacent to Detective's Office on Taylor Street and existing red brick house can be sold as surplus property.

Lastly, County Manager Sauer noted that the Board could choose to purchase two lots across the street from the former Sheriff's Office containing flood damaged buildings. The Board discussed the possible acquisition of these properties to expand parking for the courthouse and County Administration building.

**ADJOURN**

Chair Bazemore **ADJOURNED** the meeting at approximately 12:30 PM.

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Ernestine Bazemore, Chair

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Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board