

**Windsor, North Carolina  
September 10, 2018  
WORK SESSION**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a WORK SESSION 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 None

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  
Planning & Inspections Director Traci White  
Code Enforcement Administrator Chris Surgeon  
Nuisance Abatement Officer Barry Anderson  
Cooperative Extension Director Billy Barrow  
Veteran Services Director Denise Clarke  
Clerk of Superior Court Vasti F. James

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bazemore called the meeting to order.

**UPDATE – Hurricane Florence**

Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper, provided a brief update to the Board regarding Hurricane Florence. At this time, the storm still showed Bertie County within the “cone of uncertainty,” and severe impacts should be expected. He stated that he had been in direct contact with NC Emergency Management and all local partners to prepare.

Mr. Cooper shared that the County's three shelters would be open beginning Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. The shelters include Colerain Elementary, West Bertie Elementary, and Bertie Middle School.

He also reviewed that the Chair had already signed a State of Emergency for the County that restricts the sales of alcohol and firearms and also establishes a curfew, and voluntary evacuation orders for flood prone, water front, and low-lying areas within the County.

Efforts to prepare the animal shelter and County buildings for the storm had been made and would be completed by the end of the business day, and a press conference was scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Vice Chairman Wesson mentioned that he was on the hunt for available storage space for small businesses in the area looking to store important equipment or other items.

Commissioner Lee requested that all shelters have at least the basic kitchen needs and some kind of radio or television for DSS staff to monitor the storm as the shelters open.

Mr. Cooper noted that smart phones would be the main source of information during a storm of this size as his own emergency communication towers may not be able to withstand the winds.

Chair Bazemore commended Mr. Cooper and his staff for "stepping out in front of this storm," and preparing the County as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Vice Chairman Wesson echoed the same sentiments and stated that he would be praying for the County as well as all of the staff who will be working during the storm event.

### **Leasing of HTM Building for Emergency Operations needs**

County Manager Sauer introduced an idea to lease the former HTM building and the current Cashie Convention Center for emergency operations needs.

The County typically needs a central meeting point for feeding staff as well as housing their families in the event of an evacuation. The Cashie Convention Center could also host out of town responders and organizations who will be visiting the County during and after the storm. The lease will last 90-days and rent will be paid in advance (\$30,000).

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve the requested lease for 90-days and the rent of \$30,000. Vice Chairman Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Vice Chairman Wesson asked if the County's debris removal contract was in place, and Mr. Sauer confirmed that it was in place for this storm event.

### Deferred Work Session & Needed Action Items

The following items were deferred due to staff being confined to the needs of storm preparation:

- MHA Works Architect, Albi Albrecht, was scheduled to present the updated site plan and schematic conceptual design for the public library and cooperative extension offices on the Lancaster property in follow up to July 31<sup>st</sup> workshop – deferred due to storm preparations
- Consider an approved authorization for preparation of construction documents, including an addendum/alternate for a community meeting space. – deferred due to storm preparations

Items in need of review and authorization today include:

- Authorize submittal to Golden Leaf Foundation for supplemental funding.

Vice Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** to authorize the submitted of Golden Leaf Foundation documents for supplemental funding to support the addition of a community meeting room to accommodate 200-300 people as a component of the joint use facility for the public library and cooperative extension office. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Mr. Sauer stated exercising the “option to purchase” 4.0 acres on Lancaster Road at the intersection of South King Street would signify to Golden Leaf that progress was being made on the project despite the weather situation.

- Approve purchase of Lancaster Road site and execution of all appropriate documents.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to have the County Attorney prepare a draft closing statements and deed to exercise the County’s option on the Lancaster Road property to be signed by the Chair. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

- Approve Jasper Bazemore Street—transfer of deed to the Town of Windsor to facilitate the sidewalk and utility improvements as discussed with the Board in June.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to transfer the deed to the Town of Windsor to facilitate the sidewalk and utility improvements as discussed with the Board in June. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### Other Updates

- Property acquisition from Cashie Golf & Country Club for Firefighter Training facility - MCC and Town of Windsor.

Mr. Sauer noted that a deed is forthcoming, and that surveying had been delayed due to rain. The deed should be expected sometime in October, both for the country club and transfer of land to the Town of Windsor for the firefighter training facility project, approximately five (5) acres.

- Dundee Street additional Courthouse parking and possible acquisition of 26,296 square foot lot at corner of Queen St.

Mr. Sauer stated that the owners of this property is still interested in selling. The offer of \$25,000 was made to the County for the corner lot. The lot would require demolition and several other sites could be included in that demolition quote.

Vice Chairman Wesson asked that negotiations continue on the price, but that he was ready to make a motion on the matter.

Vice Chairman Wesson made a **MOTION** to move forward with negotiations on the corner lot, demolition, and the implementation of additional Courthouse parking. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

- Trespassing and illegal parking of tractor trailers on old County landfill property by Linwood Powell Trucking.

Mr. Sauer discussed an issue that had been brought to his attention by Nuisance Abatement Officer, Barry Anderson. The County currently still owns the property that used to house the landfill. The area is now being used a “private parking” lot for a citizen’s truck business.

As the years have gone by, more and more large trucks and trailers have been parked in the area of the old landfill which has made it difficult for County staff to reach pertinent equipment.

After a brief discussion, the Board asked that the Sheriff first visit with the citizen. If the matter persists, more measures will be put in place to address the matter.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Reverend Gary Cordon and other community leaders from Lewiston-Woodville asked for the County’s support in seeking grant for their town.

The Board gave their full support and assured them that any town within the County could apply for grants to various foundations and state agencies at any time, but to let the Board know if they needed any assistance.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

County Manager Sauer inquired if the Board would like review several items with the County Attorney in Closed Session.

The Board concurred.

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** for the Board 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 6:00PM today in the same location.

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Ernestine Bazemore, Chair

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Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board