

**Windsor, North Carolina  
October 7, 2019  
WORK SESSION**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners

Present: Ronald "Ron" Wesson, District I  
Greg Atkins, District II  
Tammy A. Lee, District III  
John Trent, District IV  
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: None

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer  
Assistant County Manager Juan Vaughan, II  
Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston  
Finance Director William Roberson  
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs

There were no media members present.

**CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairman Trent called the meeting to order.

**WORK SESSION**

**Presentation by Open Door Church for Proposed Acquisition of 4.75-acre Wayland Street Property**

Reverend Jay Rivenbark formally introduced himself as Pastor of Open Door Church, which currently utilizes a building on the campus of the old Bertie High School for church services. He has lived in Bertie County for 6.5 years and has been Pastor of Open Door Church for 5 years with a congregation of approximately 125 members. This church is a part of a larger church in Edenton that is very community driven, hosting monthly food and clothing give-a-ways and providing

donations for efforts to stop human trafficking through proceeds from the church-owned coffee shop in Hertford, NC. Rev. Rivenbark expressed his interest in the entire 4.75 acres on Wayland Street that appraises for approximately \$150,000.00. He expressed the church's interest in building a modern church facility for a minimum of 300 people with open ball fields and a playground. He stated that the church is not interested in keeping the buildings that currently exist on the property and demolition for these buildings would cost approximately \$98,000.00. Rev. Rivenbark presented an offer for the 4.75-acre property as is for \$50,000.00.

Chairman Trent thanked Rev. Rivenbark for his presence and interest in the property. He also informed Rev. Rivenbark that there are others interested in acquiring this property and the Board of Commissioners would be listening to those parties as well.

**Closed Session - N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(4)**

Chairman Trent called for a **MOTION** for the Board to go into Closed Session. Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Session. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Chairmen Trent called for a **MOTION** for the Board to end Closed Session. Vice Chairman Atkins made a **MOTION** to end Closed Session. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**Presentation by Carolina Rebuilders Ministry for Proposed Long-Term Lease of former DSS/Health Department Facilities on Wayland Street**

Jay Clark, Andy Edge, and David Peele came before the Board to express interest in the former DSS and Health Department Facilities on behalf of Carolina Rebuilders Ministry. David Peele and Jay Clark, Executive Director of Carolina Rebuilders Ministry, addressed the Board and explained Carolina Rebuilders Ministry is not disaster relief; loosely affiliated with the United Methodist Church, it is a strategic intentional rebuilding ministry with a 501(c)(3) that has received a 3-year \$1.1 million Duke Endowment Grant to repair homes of low-income families. The motto of this ministry is "Repairing Homes, Sharing Hope" and one of its goals is to help poor people in Bertie County. The criteria for receiving home repairs includes home ownership, low income, and federal poverty rate based on HUD computations (i.e. annual income of \$28,000 for a family of four). Home repairs are made by teams of out-of-town people who volunteer usually during the warm months of the year. Carolina Rebuilders Ministry is interested in leasing and renovating the former DSS building to include rooms for lodging and kitchen and dining areas for volunteers to reside when making repairs. This building will be available for Bertie County to use during times of disaster. The former Health Department building would be renovated in a second phase to provide an office space for this ministry. Carolina Rebuilders Ministry is interested in a lease that

states upon disbandment of the ministry, the said properties would go back to the County including all upgrades.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** for Carolina Rebuilders Ministry to construct a lease for consideration by the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

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John Trent, Chairman

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Juan Vaughan, II, Assistant County Manager