

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**June 10, 2019**  
**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met recessed their meeting from Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> to meet today for a BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING today at 7:00 PM AM inside the Commissioners Room, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. The following members were present or absent:

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  
                     Clerk to the Board Sarah Tinkham  
                     Finance Director William Roberson  
                     Assistant to the County Manager Dominique Walker  
                     DSS Director Cindy Perry  
                     Deputy Doug Jernigan

Leslie Beachboard of the Bertie-Ledger Advance and Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald were present from the media.

**RECONVENE**

Chairman Trent RECONVENED from Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**INVOCATION**

\_\_\_\_\_ gave the Invocation.

**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

Chairman Trent called for a **MOTION** to open the Public Hearing. Commissioner Wesson made the requested motion. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

At this time, County Manager Sauer briefly summarized the process and timeline of events on how the proposed budget was drafted, and brief discussed the changes the Board decided to make during their budget deliberations on Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Consensus was achieved on the following budget reductions:

\$149,695	Capital outlay deferred for new library and cooperative extension facility and realigned with project schedule for FY 2020-2021
130,000	Capital outlay deferred for site development on the Tall Glass of Water project until new scope of work is approved
195,000	EMS personnel expense reduction due to lapsed salaries for vacant positions
128,144	Sheriff’s Office personnel expense reduction due to lapsed salaries for vacant positions
16,000	Governing Body reduced expense for Poverty Commission projects
22,000	Administration building restroom renovations deferred
30,000	Courthouse restroom renovations reduced in scope
16,000	Sheriff’s Office capital outlay reduced
10,000	Communications maintenance contract decreased
10,000	EMS Software license fee reduced
5,000	NET Software license fees reduced
<u>40,000</u>	Cooperative Extension operating funds reduced
<b>\$751,839</b>	<b>Preliminary budget reductions – equivalent to 5.86 cents</b>

With the outlined changes above, the Board is now proposing a 3.5 cent tax increase in lieu of a 9 cent increase initially proposed.

The County Manager also discussed the addition of two positions outlined in the budget including an additional Inspector that will be trained to conduct fire inspections, as well as an Administrative Assistant at the Board of Elections.

There was also a recent consensus among the Board to continue providing a \$200 stipend to County employees via a FSA program, and a 3% increase cost of living adjustment.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Trent opened the floor to Public Comments.

Vivian Clarke of Windsor inquired about the need for an additional Inspector.

Thadd White, Lewis Hoggard, and Sheila Powell, President of the Windsor/Bertie Chamber of Commerce were present to request that the Board reconsider their budget request. They were thankful for the additional \$1,000 in funding, but implored the Board to consider funding their full request of \$8,000. They briefly discussed the various events throughout the year that are sponsored by the Chamber, as well as the event support they provide to other towns within the County.

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Bazemore noticed members of her church in attendance and asked if they had any public comments or concerns to share.

In reply, Candace Lee stated that her concerns were no longer valid now that the Board has made necessary cuts to address the initially proposed 9 cent tax increase.

Commissioner Wesson thanked those present for participating in the budget process. He recalled this public hearing last year having very little public participation. He also discussed that the County Manager is charged each year with presenting a balanced budget to the Board. It is normal for a tax increase to be proposed, and in most cases, it is simply a jumping off point to begin the budget process.

Chairman Trent discussed how the Board's recent decisions to raise the starting salary of jail, prison, EMS, and Sheriff's employees has shown a positive impact on hiring at each respective institution.

Vice Chairman Atkins thanked those present for coming and for their participation.

Commissioner Lee thanked those present for their participation in the process.

Chairman Trent called for other public comments, but no one came forward.

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to close the Public Comments section. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

At this time, the Board agreed to consider the Chamber's request before their next meeting which will be to approve the FY2019-2020 budget ordinance.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to instruct the County Manager and Finance Director to prepare the FY 2019-2020 Budget Ordinance for adoption on June 18<sup>th</sup> with a tax rate of 86.5 cents per \$100 assessed value. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**RECESS**

Commissioner Bazemore **MOTION** to for the Board to *RECESS* until Monday, June 18 at 11:00 a.m. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

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John Trent, Chairman

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Sarah Tinkham, Clerk to the Board