

**Windsor, North Carolina
August 5, 2019
REGULAR SESSION**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met 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
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
Assistant to the County Manager Dominique Walker
Finance Director William Roberson
4-H Agent Guy Holley
Clerk of Superior Court Vashti F. James
Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs
Deputy Tim Hardy
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper

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

CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Trent called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Commissioner Wesson led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made at this time.

APPOINTMENTS and Reports

(1) Bertie County 2018-2028 Comprehensive Recreation Plan final presentation by David Hodges of Good Consulting Services, LLC.

David Hodges of Good Consulting Services, LLC. provided an overview of the final copy of the Bertie County 2018-2028 Comprehensive Recreation Plan. He shared that the Plan would be available online.

(2) Introduction of 2019 Youth Voice nominee, Taylor Cotten, by 4-H Agent Guy Holley

Bertie County 4-H Agent Guy Holley introduced Taylor Cotton, 2019 NCACC Youth Voice nominee to the Board. Ms. Cotton provided remarks on her 4-H experiences to the Board.

Assistant County Manager Juan Vaughan, II introduced EMS intern Ashley Moring to the Board. Ms. Moring is a graduating senior at Elizabeth City State University. She will be graduating with a degree in Emergency Management. She gave an overview of her internship projects and thanked the Board for the opportunity.

(3) Reappointment of Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea, and Oath of Office for additional 4-year term by Clerk of Superior Court, Vashti F. James

County Manager Scott Sauer recommended to the Board to consider reappointing Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea for four additional years. Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to reappoint Jodie Rhea as Tax Administrator for four additional years. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

The reappointment of Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea was administered by Clerk of Superior Court, Vasti F. James.

(4) 2020 Revaluation Project Update by Gary Piner

Mr. Gary Piner provided an update on the 2020 Revaluation Project to the Board. Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea gave an overview of the project calendar to the Board including a public hearing on the proposed schedule of values on September 30th which will be adopted at the Board's regular meeting on October 7th.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Tri-County Airport Authority

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to appoint Economic Development Director Steve Biggs for an additional term. Chairman Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Region Q Workforce Development Board

County Manager Scott Sauer recommended to the Board to consider approaching new Bertie County Schools Superintendent Dr. Otis L. Smallwood to serve on the board.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes for Regular Meeting 7-1-19
2. Approve Minutes for Work Session 7-1-19
3. Register of Deeds Fees Report – July 2019
4. Approval of Tax Collection Order – FY2019-2020; Report of settlements per N.C.G.S. 105-373 (a)(1) including: list of 2018 Unpaid Real and Personal Property taxes of \$265,328.65, list of 2018 unpaid personal property taxes (insolvents report) of \$54,024.58, statement regarding delinquent personal property taxes, resolution declaring No One Insolvent and Recharging Delinquent Collections to the Tax Administrator.
5. Budget Amendments
6. Close Out - Contract Amendment – Jeff Best, CPA
7. Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) FY2019-2020, Council on Aging

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve items 1 through 5 of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to approve items 6 through 7 of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve item 8 of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Teacher Housing project update

Mr. Sauer shared with the Board that the Golden Leaf Foundation grant for the Teacher Housing project will no longer be available after September 30th. Commissioner Wesson shared that the House Bill 375 has not moved out of the Rules Committee. He shared upcoming discussions with local representatives about legislative assistance.

Commissioner Bazemore suggested the Board take a trip to Raleigh to advocate for the project.

Library & Cooperative Extension project update

Mr. Sauer gave an update to the audience about the Library & Cooperative Extension project. The \$3.8 million construction project is grant funded by the Golden Leaf Foundation.

OPIOID lawsuit update by Assistant County Attorney, Jonathan Huddleston

Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston gave the Board an update on the Opioid lawsuit. He shared that the lawsuit has been filed and that additional information for discovery will be needed from county departments for the case.

Discuss proposed 2020 meeting schedule for the Board of Commissioners, 2020 State Holiday schedule

Mr. Sauer gave an overview of the current meeting schedule and asked the Board to consider moving future meetings out into the community. Commissioner Wesson expressed his support of having meetings around the county community.

Elizabeth Dole Foundation Dinner – Hidden Heroes Campaign

Commissioner Lee shared with the Board her experience attending the Elizabeth Dole Foundation dinner at the NACo annual conference and the Hidden Heroes Campaign. Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** that Bertie County become a Hidden Heroes community. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Church – promotional ad

County Manager Scott Sauer shared with the Board that the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Church Association is looking for sponsorships for an upcoming event. Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to donate \$100 for a promotional ad. Chairman Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Voting Delegate – 2019 NCACC Annual Conference

Commissioner Wesson will serve as the Voting Delegate for the 2019 NCACC Annual Conference.

Review of September 3rd Agenda draft

Mr. Sauer provided an overview of the September 3rd Agenda draft with the Board, including the upcoming report of “impassable roads” for review in accordance with the County’s Road Safety and Maintenance Ordinance.

Other Items

The next work session is scheduled for September 16th and the agenda will include: TGOW Site Development Planning, Animal Shelter renovation plans, and review status of other projects in progress. Mr. Sauer shared that the TGOW Site Development will be on August 27th at 10AM at the Roanoke-Cashie River Center.

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

Commissioner Bazemore inquired about using the customer credit cards for the Water Department. She also inquired about the progress of the Blue Jay Recreation site. She also shared that she attended the swearing-in of new Bertie County Schools Superintendent Dr. Otis L. Smallwood. She expressed the concerns of citizens regarding the lack of teacher supplements and putting the quarter-cent sales tax back on the ballot.

Commissioner Lee shared her experience attending the NACo Annual Conference in Nevada. She thanked the public for the opportunity to attend.

Commissioner Atkins had no reports at this time.

Chairman Trent had no reports at this time.

Commissioner Wesson shared that he accepted appointment on the Martin Community College Board and that the Board is open to all suggestions pertaining to the College. He expressed that he has been pushing for more vocational training. Commissioner Wesson also shared that he will be serving as the Vice-Chair on the Selection Committee for the new president of the College.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Kiwa Spivey of Windsor expressed that the County needs to work with teachers and the community to help students. She expressed vocation training options for students and additional motivational support for students.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

The County Manager had no remarks at this time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS

The County Attorney had no remarks at this time.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Session pursuant to **N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(4)** to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations. The action approves the signing of an economic development contract or commitment, or the action authorizing the payment of economic development expenditures, shall be taken in an open session. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

At this time, Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to return to Open Session. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

AJOURN

Chairman Trent **ADJOURNED** the meeting at 8:00 PM.

John Trent, Chairman

Assistant to the County Manager, Dominique Walker