

Bertie County Board of Commissioners



April 1, 2019
4:00 PM

	Ronald "Ron" Wesson	District 1
Vice Chairman	Greg Atkins	District II
	Tammy A. Lee	District III
Chairman	John Trent	District IV
	Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore	District V

BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**April 1, 2019
Meeting Agenda**

This agenda is only a tentative schedule of matters the Commissioners may address at their meeting and all items found on it may be deleted, amended or deferred. The Commissioners may also, in their absolute discretion, consider matters not shown on this agenda.

4:00 p.m. Work Session for follow-up on February 18th planning session items including Closed Session matters

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.

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.

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of employment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee.

6:00 Welcome and Call to Order by Chairman Trent (Commissioners Room)

Opening Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Wesson

Public Comments (3-minute time limit per person)

(A)

***** APPOINTMENTS & REPORTS *****

- (1) Convene as Board of Equalization & Review, Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea
- (2) CPTA Annual Report presentation by Pamela Perry, Executive Director
- (3) Hurricane Matthew Recovery Update by Chris Hilbert with Holland Consulting Planners
- (4) Second Reading – Road Safety and Maintenance Ordinance

Board Appointments (B)

- 1. Mid-East Regional Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Reappointment
- 2. DSS Board Reappointment

Consent Agenda (C)

- 1. Approve Minutes for Regular Meeting 3-11-19
- 2. Approve Minutes for Work Session 3-11-19
- 3. Register of Deeds report
- 4. Resolution honoring 100th Birthday of Beulah Bernice Bond McBride

*****OTHER ITEMS***
Discussion Agenda (D)**

- (1) Census 2020 update from Assistant to the County Manager Dominique Walker in follow-up from the recent Mid-East Commission meeting.
- (2) DSS Medicaid Transformation— Ms. Cindy Perry DSS Director will be present to address question regarding the upcoming meeting on its implementation for Bertie County.

Commissioners' Reports (E)

Junior Commissioners' Reports

County Manager's Reports (F)

County Attorney's Reports (G)

**Public Comments Continued
(3-minute time limit per person)**

Closed Session

ADJOURN



Bertie County

Board of Commissioners

ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: April 1, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: A-1 thru A-4

DEPARTMENT: Governing Body

SUBJECT: Appointments and Reports

- (1) Convene as Board of Equalization & Review, Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea
- (2) CPTA Annual Report presentation by Pamela Perry, Executive Director
- (3) Hurricane Matthew Recovery Update by Chris Hilbert with Holland Consulting Planners
- (4) Second Reading – Road Safety and Maintenance Ordinance (as amended)

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

LEGAL REVIEW PENDING: N/A

ITEM HISTORY: Item (4) was preceded by a public hearing on March 11th 2019



A-1

Subject:

Board of Equalization and Review

§ 105-322. County board of equalization and review.

(a) Personnel. - Except as otherwise provided herein, the board of equalization and review of each county shall be composed of the members of the board of county commissioners.

Upon the adoption of a resolution so providing, the board of commissioners is authorized to appoint a special board of equalization and review to carry out the duties imposed under this section. The resolution shall provide for the membership, qualifications, terms of office and the filling of vacancies on the board. The board of commissioners shall also designate the chairman of the special board. The resolution may also authorize a taxpayer to appeal a decision of the special board with respect to the listing or appraisal of his property or the property of others to the board of county commissioners. The resolution shall be adopted not later than the first Monday in March of the year for which it is to be effective and shall continue in effect until revised or rescinded. It shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting of the board of commissioners and a copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Department of Revenue within 15 days after its adoption.

Nothing in this subsection (a) shall be construed as repealing any law creating a special board of equalization and review or creating any board charged with the duties of a board of equalization and review in any county.

(b) Compensation. - The board of county commissioners shall fix the compensation and allowances to be paid members of the board of equalization and review for their services and expenses.

(c) Oath. - Each member of the board of equalization and review shall take the oath required by Article VI, § 7 of the North Carolina Constitution with the following phrase added to it: "that I will not allow my actions as a member of the board of equalization and review to be influenced by personal or political friendships or obligations,". The oath must be filed with the clerk of the board of county commissioners.

(d) Clerk and Minutes. - The assessor shall serve as clerk to the board of equalization and review, shall be present at all meetings, shall maintain accurate minutes of the actions of the board, and shall give to the board such information as he may have or can obtain with respect to the listing and valuation of taxable property in the county.

(e) Time of Meeting. - Each year the board of equalization and review shall hold its first meeting not earlier than the first Monday in April and not later than the first Monday in May.+ In years in which a county does not conduct a real property revaluation, the board shall complete its duties on or before the third Monday following its first meeting unless, in its opinion, a longer period of time is necessary or expedient to a proper execution of its responsibilities. Except as provided in subdivision (g)(5) of this section, the board may not sit later than July 1 except to hear and determine requests made under the provisions of subdivision (g)(2), below, when such requests are made within the time prescribed by law. In the year in which a county conducts a real property revaluation, the board shall complete its duties on or before December 1, except that it may sit after that date to hear and determine requests made under the provisions of subdivision (g)(2), below, when such requests are made within the time prescribed by law. From the time of its first meeting until its adjournment, the board shall meet at such times as it deems reasonably necessary to perform its statutory duties and to receive requests and hear the appeals of taxpayers under the provisions of subdivision (g)(2), below.

(f) Notice of Meetings and Adjournment. - A notice of the date, hours, place, and purpose of the first meeting of the board of equalization and review shall be published at least three times in some newspaper having general circulation in the county, the first publication to be at least 10 days prior to the first meeting. The notice shall also state the dates and hours on which the board will meet following its first meeting and the date on which it expects to adjourn; it shall also carry a statement that in the event of earlier or later adjournment, notice to that effect will be published in the same newspaper. Should a notice be required on account of earlier adjournment, it shall be published at least once in the newspaper in which the first notice was published, such publication to be at least five days prior to the date fixed for adjournment. Should a notice be required on account of later adjournment, it shall be published at least once in the newspaper in which the first notice was published, such publication to be prior to the date first announced for adjournment.



A-4

ROAD SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE

FOR

BERTIE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

February 18, 2019

**ARTICLE I
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS**

Section 101 Title

This Ordinance is entitled the *Bertie County Road Safety and Maintenance Ordinance*, and may be cited as the *Road Safety and Maintenance Ordinance*.

Section 102 Authority & Purpose

Bertie County being granted the authority under N.C.G.S. §153A-340 *et. seq.* and all other relevant North Carolina General Statutes, and, whereas, in order to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Bertie County, North Carolina; to allow for and provide for safe and timely emergency services to those citizens of Bertie County; and to abate and repair any deterrence to these services because of the conditions of any roadways which have been deemed to be detrimental to the public health, safety, and general welfare of a citizen of this county and said conditions have been determined to be a "public nuisance" and/or "safety hazard"; it is desirable and necessary to adopt the *Road Safety and Maintenance Ordinance*, for the territorial jurisdiction of Bertie County as herein set forth.

Section 103 Jurisdiction

Upon adoption, this ordinance shall govern every private and public road not maintained by the North Carolina Department of Transportation within Bertie County, North Carolina, where said road provides for public or private access to, at a minimum, two residences or dwellings which are used for residential purposes.

**ARTICLE II
DEFINITIONS**

Section 201 General

For the purpose of this ordinance, certain terms or words used herein shall be interpreted as set forth herein:

Section 202 Words Interpretation

For the purpose of this Ordinance, certain words shall be interpreted as follows:

- a) The word "may" is permissive
- b) The words "shall" and "will" are mandatory
- c) The present tense includes the future tense and the future tense includes the present tense.
- d) The singular includes the plural and plural includes the singular.
- e) The word "county" shall mean Bertie County, North Carolina
- f) The words "County Commissioners" shall mean the Bertie County Board of Commissioners.
- g) The word "person" includes firm, association, organization; trust, company, corporation, or any legal entity as well as an individual.
- h) The words "used" or "occupied" include the phrases: "intended to be occupied or used".

Section 203 Definitions

Dwelling- For the purpose of this Ordinance a dwelling, means any building, structure, manufactured home or mobile home, occupied, maintained or intended for use as a residence.

Enforcement Officer- The enforcement officers for Bertie County shall be the Emergency Management Services Director and Sheriff of Bertie County. Each is vested with the powers and authority granted under Article III of this Ordinance.

Private Road- A road or street that has not been accepted nor planned for acceptance by North Carolina Department of Transportation or other governmental entity, and which provides vehicular access to residential areas containing a minimum of two dwellings. A Private Road shall not include a private driveway providing ingress and egress to a single private residence.

Owner- The legal owner of the parcel or real property upon which any part of the private road is situated as documented in the Bertie County Tax Office. An owner will only be responsible pursuant to Article III of this ordinance for that portion or section of the private road which is found within the boundary of their parcel as defined by the Bertie County Tax and Mapping Department.

Residence- A place where a person or group of persons resides on a permanent or temporary basis.

Extreme Weather Conditions- For the purpose of this statute extreme weather conditions are those meteorological conditions which result in excessive precipitation, including ice, rain, or snow, that would make an otherwise passable private road unpassable; or a meteorological condition resulting in damage which causes a private road to not be passable. In the event said road is damaged as a result of said extreme

weather the owner shall have the same time allotted in Article IV Section 501 to repair said damage and bring said private road in compliance with this ordinance.

Obstacle: Any natural or manmade impediment or debris acting as a hinderance to vehicular travel on a road or street.

Vehicles: Two or Four Wheel drive vehicles owned and operated by law enforcement, emergency management services or any fire department which are used in the execution of public services.

ARTICLE III SPECIFICATIONS FOR PRIVATE ROADS

Section 301 General Provisions

Any Private Road within the jurisdiction of this ordinance will be subject to the specifications set forth within this article.

Section 302 Specifications

(a) All Private Roads must be passable for all vehicles defined in Article II Section 203.

(b) The Private Road must be passable. "Passable" is defined as being clear of obstacles and capable of being traveled upon safely. Travel will be deemed safe when said private road is devoid of any and all holes, cracks, crevices, potholes or other breaks in the road which cause the bottom chassis of the vehicle to come into contact with the ground or water during non-extreme weather conditions.

(c) The determination of what constitutes "passable" will be determined by the Enforcement Officer based upon the specifications contained herein.

Section 303 Exceptions

The specifications set forth in this ordinance do not apply during extreme weather conditions, or to situations where a private road becomes unpassable based upon extreme weather conditions.

Section 304 Maintenance

The owner of said Private Roads shall have a specific duty to maintain, repair, and bring up to standard, all private roads within the jurisdiction of this ordinance. Any and all private roads subject to this ordinance shall be subject to inspection by the Enforcement Officer to ensure compliance with the specification set forth in Article III, Section 302 above.

Section 305 Compliance

Any current owner of a private road subject to this Ordinance shall have 45 days to come into compliance with said Ordinance when served with a notice of violation. This notice of violation shall be served upon the land owner by the Bertie County Sheriff's Department. All new private roads subject to this Ordinance shall be built in compliance with the Specifications set forth in Article III, Section 302 above.

**ARTICLE IV
APPEAL**

Section 401 Notice of Appeal

Any current owner cited with a violation of said ordinance pursuant to this order, shall have ten (10) days upon service of notice of violation to file written notice of appeal with the County Clerk.

Section 402 Process of Appeal

- (a) If any owner or occupant makes a written request to the Board of Commissioners for hearing, such hearing shall be held before the Bertie County Board of Commissioners.
- (b) The hearing shall be held at the next available meeting after the request for a hearing was received.
- (c) The County shall mail a notice to the appealing party of the time and place of the hearing at least 10 calendar days prior to the hearing.
- (d) All parties shall have full opportunity to respond to and present evidence and witnesses.
- (e) The appellant shall have the burden of proving its position by clear and convincing evidence.
- (f) Hearings shall be informal and the rules of evidence as applied in the courts shall not apply. Irrelevant, immaterial and repetitious evidence shall be excluded.
- (g) The hearing shall be recorded, and the minutes of the meeting shall be approved by the Board of Commissioners at their next scheduled meeting.
- (h) The decision of the Board of Commissioners shall be issued within 10 calendar days following the hearing. Unless otherwise provided by law, the decision of the Board of Commissioners shall constitute the final decision.

ARTICLE V ENFORCEMENT

Section 501 General Provisions

If the specifications required by this Ordinance are not met within 45 days following service of notice the violation, the private road owner shall be subject to a civil penalty pursuant to N.C.G.S. 153A-123(c) of \$100.00 per day for each day the violation continues, recoverable by the County in a civil action in the nature of a debt. The purpose of this civil fine is not punitive but intend to help defray any potential costs associated with repairing said private roads. In addition to all other remedies available either at law or in equity, as violation of this order is deemed a public nuisance the County may institute an action in the General Court of Justice, more specifically the Superior Court of Bertie County, seeking enforcement of the ordinance by injunction and order of abatement pursuant to N.C.G.S. §153A-123(d) and (e), including but not limited to, action by the County seeking an order of abatement requiring the private road owner to make the necessary improvements to said private road within the time allowed by the Court, whereupon noncompliance with the abatement order the County may execute the Order, making the necessary repairs and maintenance, creating a lien upon the owner's real property for the costs of executing said order.

Bertie County does hereby under the powers granted it pursuant to in N.C.G.S. §153A-123(c), specifically state and hold that violation of this ordinance shall not be a misdemeanor under N.C.G.S §14-4, and that a violation of this ordinance shall not be subject to a criminal penalty, other than those penalties assessed by a court pursuant to it's contempt powers.

PROCESS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF ROAD SAFETY
ORDINANCE

1. Notice of Violation

- a. Upon complaint by citizen or any other concerned party, the Sheriff or Director of EMS will investigate designated area
- b. Sheriff or Director of EMS will determine if Road in Violation of Ordinance
- c. The County shall have Sheriff Department Personally serve a written notice of violation on any landowners in violation providing 45 days to repair Road

2. Appeal

- a. Land Owner will have ten days to provide written notice of appeal to County
- b. After appeal County will set the hearing at the next regularly scheduled meeting
- c. Following the hearing on the Appeal, the County has 10 days to provide a written decision

3. Enforcing Violation

- a. If after appeal or the expiration of the 45-day time limit the land owner has not made repairs, the County may file an action against the land owner in Superior Court. A fine of \$100.00 a day runs during this time period following the 45-day reprieve.
- b. Court may initially order the landowner to repair the road at cost within a certain time period.
- c. If landowner still refuses, County may get an order of abatement and hold the landowner in contempt.
- d. If County receives an Order of Abatement, the County can then go make repairs to road and place lien upon the property for the cost of said repair.



Bertie County

Board of Commissioners

ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: April 1, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: B-1

DEPARTMENT: Governing Body

SUBJECT: Appointments (2 re-appointments)

COUNTY MANAGER RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:

- 1) Ms. Vivian Saunders is eligible for reappointment to the Mid-East Regional Housing Authority and she is willing to continue to serve.
- 2) Commissioner Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore is eligible for reappointment to the Bertie County Social Services Board and she is willing to continue to serve.

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM ACTION(S): Consider approval

ATTACHMENTS:

LEGAL REVIEW PENDING: N/A

ITEM HISTORY:

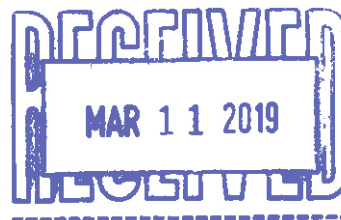


B-1



MID-EAST REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 811 • 415 East Boulevard, Suite 140 • Williamston, NC 27892
(252) 789-4924 • Fax (252) 789-0014



March 5, 2019

Scott Sauer, County Manager
Bertie County Office Building
PO Box 530 /106 Dundee Street
Windsor, NC 27983

Dear Mr. Sauer:

Mrs. Vivian Saunders term as Commissioner of the Mid-East Regional Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, representing Bertie County, will expire on April 20, 2019.

Mrs. Saunders is dedicated to the work of Mid-East Regional Housing Authority and her attendance is outstanding. She currently serves as Vice-Chairperson to the Board. As you know, Mrs. Saunders is devoted to serving the community and looking out for the residents of Bertie County as well as all the counties that MERHA serves. She has indicated a willingness to serve again, if reappointed.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lynn Alligood
Executive Director

cc: Vivian Saunders, MERHA Vice-Chairperson & Commissioner
Dick Tunnell, MERHA Chairman & Commissioner



Serving Beaufort, Bertie, Hyde, Martin, Pitt, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties

www.merha.org





Bertie County

Board of Commissioners

ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: April 1, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: Consent Agenda

DEPARTMENT: Administration

SUBJECT: C-1 through C-4

1. Approve Minutes for Regular Meeting 3-11-2019
2. Approve Minutes for Work Session 3-11-2019
3. Register of Deeds report-March 2018
4. Resolution honoring 100th Birthday for Beulah Bernice Bond McBride

COUNTY MANAGER RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS: Approval

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM NEEDED ACTION(S): Approval

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

LEGAL REVIEW PENDING: N/A

ITEM HISTORY: N/A



C-1

**Windsor, North Carolina
March 11, 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
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: John Trent, District IV

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer
Clerk to the Board Sarah Tinkham
County Attorney Lloyd Smith
Finance Officer William Roberson
Assistant to the County Manager Dominique Walker
Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea
Sheriff John Holley
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs
DSS Director Cindy Perry
DSS Program Supervisor Vernetta Henderson
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs

Junior Commissioners: Qudre Joyner

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

CALLED TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Atkins called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vivian Clarke of Windsor expressed her concerns with Bertie County's Department of Social Services in regards to hiring and the atmosphere some citizens have encountered while applying for services.

Brenda Cowand of Merry Hill reported that she had just won a bowling tournament in Fayetteville with a cash prize of \$200.

Lisa Bond of Windsor echoed the concerns of Ms. Clarke and stated that she was a former Bertie County DSS employee. She expressed her concerns with advancement opportunities within the organization.

Commissioner Ernestine Bazemore responded to the concerns presented about Bertie's DSS office by noting that the State has full control over the staff, and that the County does not have the authority or ability to take action within that agency.

There were no other public comments at this time.

APPOINTMENTS and Reports

(1) Public Hearing – Road Safety and Maintenance Ordinance

Before opening the public hearing, Vice Chairman Atkins asked the County Attorney to review the proposed ordinance. County Attorney Lloyd Smith explained that the proposed ordinance is based on a nuisance abatement structure to ensure that private roads are "passable" and free of holes. Notice will be given to property owners of these roads providing forty-five (45) days for abatement. If the road is not repaired, the County can arrange to have it fixed at the County's expense and a lien will be placed on the property.

Commissioner Bazemore shared her concerns with a \$1,000 per day penalty plus a lien on the property. She furthered explained that she did not think the County was prepared to enforce this ordinance.

Commissioner Wesson shared his view that this ordinance is needed. He stated that it is the right thing to do, and it is the right time to approve this ordinance. He reminded the Board that our oath of office requires that we need to provide for the safety and welfare of our citizens. He explained that the land owner will be give the opportunity to fix the road, and that this is a safety ordinance.

Commissioner Lee shared that she felt the same way as Commissioner Bazemore and that she has done a lot of research. She indicated that Macon County had a similar ordinance and it did not work, and that she had two emails from UNC School of Government staff members saying that we cannot do this and that the nuisance abatement statutes do not apply.

Vice Chairman Atkins shared that he agreed with Commissioner Wesson.

County Attorney Smith stated that nobody can tell you the ordinance is not enforceable, and that he would place a ninety percent (90%) chance that it is enforceable. He explained that the imposition on the property owner is small compared to public safety. Mr. Smith further explained that if the Board is voting tonight, it will not pass if it is two "for" and two "against."

After much discussion the Vice Chairman opened the public hearing for citizen comments.

Mr. Wayne Pierce of Pierce Lane asked the Board to take his little bit of taxes and fix my road just a little.

Ms. Vivian Clark of South King Street stated that these roads need to be repaired, but I am questioning the way you are going about how to fix them. She further stated that she agreed with Commissioners Bazemore and Lee.

Ms. Terry Pierce of Pierce Lane and Thomasville Road shared that she has collected letters of support from Sheriff John Holley, Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper, Water Department Supervisor Ricky Spivey, and Roanoke Electric Cooperative in support of this proposed ordinance.

Mr. Jerry Cowand of Merry Hill stated that we have a problem and I am against this ordinance. He stated that this is public nuisance ordinance and not a public safety ordinance. He further explained that this is right-of-way issue and not a criminal issue, and that what you are doing is creating zoning within the County.

Mr. Gerald Adams stated that there are no signs for no trespassing, and that people are driving through residential yards to avoid pot holes.

Mr. Tim Bazemore Jr. stated that we are one of the poorest counties in the state, and that his father has trailer parks and keeps his roads up. He also explained that in the Woodard Road subdivision people share in the road repair.

Ms. Brandi Calvin stated that she feels sorry for these residents, and you should file a lawsuit to get your roads fixed.

Ms. Jennifer Mitchell speaking on behalf of her parents on Pierce Lane in support of the ordinance stating this is a safety issue.

Mr. Dick Ryan spoke in favor of the ordinance stating that he has a sick child who need EMS transport five times in the past year, and this family needs an EMS ambulance in a timely fashion.

Mr. Vernon Lee stated that he agrees with Ms. Clark and that he has sat in court enough to know and asked what training have you had to determine that a road is impassable? Do you have a motor grader? When is it impassable? He encouraged the Board to stop and think about what you are doing.

Mr. James Lee questioned using taxpayer dollars to maintain a private road and stated that more research needs to be done.

Commissioner Bazemore state her gratitude and thanks to all of the citizens for their input.

Commissioner Wesson offered additional clarification noting that if you are a lot owner, you do not have the authority to fix somebody's else's road. He emphasized that the County is not attempting to take over people's land, noting that the County's responsibility is to protect people.

Commissioner Lee thanked everyone for attending and shared that she had done a lot of research. She also noted that Cleveland County loans funds to improve roads.

Vice Chairman Atkins closed the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. and continued with the remainder of the regular meeting agenda.

(2) 2019 Relay for Life Update by Jo Ann Jordan

Ms. Jordan provided an update on the 2019 Relay for Life which will be held May 17th at the Roy Bond Stadium from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. She encouraged the public to attend, to register survivors and to purchase luminaries as memorials.

Ms. Jordan presented the Bertie County Board of Commissioners and Bertie County Emergency Management with the Purple Ribbon Award for the 2018 Relay for Life.

Ms. Jordan also presented the County with a framed certificate for the National Award for the 2018 Relay for Life Per Capita based on local contributions of \$226,782 or \$10.66 per capita. Bertie County was #1 in eastern North Carolina and #2 in the United States.

The Board thanked Ms. Jordan for dedication to Bertie County and for her leadership with the annual Relay for Life. Commissioner Wesson offered MOTION to approve the resolution and Commissioner Lee SECONDED the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

(3) Economic Development Report by Economic Development Director, Steve Biggs

Economic Development Director, Steve Biggs, was present to deliver an update about his latest projects on behalf of Bertie County.

He began by thanking the Board for their efforts in supporting his Economic Development Board members.

He noted that he is communicating with two different solar farms on potential projects. One company, Geenex, is looking to establish a 1,000-acre farm within the County. The goal was to have representatives from Geenex before the Board at an upcoming Board meeting. Permitting is almost complete for work to begin.

A second solar farm of 100 acres is also looking to occupy land in Bertie.

Mr. Biggs updated the Board regarding progress for the CDBG Broadband project, noting that the Mid-East Commission and Roanoke Electric Cooperative are working hard to move this effort forward.

On a similar note, Mr. Biggs noted a newly established relationship with RiverStreet Networks out of Wilkes County, NC. RiverStreet Networks is a company experienced with providing fast internet service to rural areas. He stated that he would be inviting representatives from the company back to the County so that they were able to see what possible services they could provide for our area.

Mr. Biggs reminded the Board about the upcoming visit to Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) to meet with the ECSU Chancellor about their newly established Aviation program.

The program allows students to enter either a mechanical aviation or pilot course plan for less cost than other leading universities with similar programs. This is a partnership with the University of North Carolina.

Mr. Biggs also reported about "Project Bunny," which is a project the Board recently learned about in Closed Session. He stated that communication on this project was still in progress, and more information will be provided to the Board soon.

Within the next month, it was noted by Mr. Biggs that a final decision would be received from a pharmacy looking to occupy an empty storefront in the Food Lion Shopping Center in Windsor.

Per a conversation with Lynn Minges, President and CEO of NC Restaurants and Lodging Association, Mr. Biggs noted that 55 million people had visited NC in 2018. She provided statistical information showing that when there is an increased percentage in State tourism, NC

counties also benefit from the same percentage in tourism. He said this could provide a huge benefit to the County once the “tall glass of water” property is complete.

Mr. Biggs also introduced a new hiring site that will be utilized by manufacturing jobs only, RampEast.

Additionally, Mr. Biggs shared that he will be meeting with the NC General Assembly’s Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee in the coming week to discuss the local legislation for the Teacher Housing Initiative.

(4) Bryant Buck, Executive Director of the Mid-East Commission, will present the CENSUS 2020 timeline, outreach, and overall process of the upcoming data collection cycle

Due to a scheduling conflict Mr. Buck’s report was presented by the U.S. Department of Commerce 2020 Census Partnership Specialist, Ms. Bernadette Richards. Ms. Richards explained the importance of increasing Bertie County’s participation in the 2020 U.S. Census which will officially begin April 1st. She further explained that her office will support outreach efforts for recruiting paid staff and volunteers in Bertie County. County Manager Sauer noted that Ms. Dominique Walker will serve as the lead contact for the County in the 2020 Census.

(5) Bertie County Communications Survey report by Assistant to the County Manager, Dominique Walker

Assistant to the County Manager, Dominique Walker, presented a PowerPoint report detailing a recent survey conducted in Bertie County among various citizen groups. The survey’s goal was to receive information on how County citizens receive news and updates from their County government.

The survey found that a majority of citizens still receive their news from the County via word of mouth followed by the local newspapers and County Facebook page.

She also provided several recommendations to the Board on how increase their reach and provide more opportunities for citizens to reach their elected leaders directly with any concerns.

(6) 2018 Tax Report by Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea

Tax Administrator, Jodie Rhea, was present to answer any questions the Board may have about the action items submitted for the Board’s review under the Consent Agenda.

He also noted that 2018 tax rate is 97.29%. Each of the Commissioners congratulated Mr. Rhea and his staff for this achievement.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REPORTS

Voluntary Agricultural District Board

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to appoint Curtis Brown, Herbert “Herbie” Tayloe, Carl Bond, and Shelby Castelloe to the Voluntary Agricultural District Board. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes for Regular Meeting 2-4-19, Planning Session 2-18-19, Special Meeting 2-21-19, Closed Session 2-4-19 and 2-18-19
2. Register of Deeds Fees Report – February 2019
3. Tax Department Release Journal – January 2019, February 2019
4. Tax Administrator’s Reports & Requests: report of total unpaid taxes for FY2017-2018 Real & Personal Property as required by N.C.G.S. 105-369, approval of “Order to Advertise the 2018 Tax Liens” – pursuant to N.C.G.S. 105-369, Establish April 1, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. for the Board of Commissioners to convene as the Board of Equalization and Review
5. Budget Amendment(s)
6. **Resolution** - approving land exchange between Bertie County and Cashie Golf & Country Club
7. **Report** - Settlement for the Department of Social Services re: Latria Norman
8. **Project Change Order** - Bertie County Regional Water System – WIF 1897 installation of chlorine detection units with remaining project funds available.
9. **Work Authorization** - Hurricane Matthew NC-DRA17, No. 4 for Holland Consulting Planners through June 30, 2019.
10. **Project ordinance and revised grant agreement** - Golden LEAF Foundation – combining project No. FY2017-207 and FY2017-204.
11. **Resolution** - protect Lower Roanoke River Basin from unnecessary flooding

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

TGOW – Proposed action plan for project implementation to include community visioning, temporary access, planning and grant funding consulting services

County Manager Sauer discussed that the Board prepare for an upcoming Work Session focusing on the “Tall Glass of Water” and developing the implementation plan to provide public access to the Albemarle Sound beach area. Mr. Sauer also noted that the outline prepared by Ms. Robin Payne provides for several key benchmarks including visioning, branding (naming the project site location) and developing a steering committee to guide the citizen outreach and planning efforts.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Lee shared her experience attending the Alcohol Forum in Raleigh with legislators discussing the ABC system and possibly privatization. She stated that privatization is not looking like a good option for the state. She shared her excitement of attending the first annual Criminal Justice Summit. She introduced a resolution recognizing the Town of Powellsville and its centennial and indicated that the Town was having a celebration on March 16, 2019 at 10AM. She made a **MOTION** to adopt the resolution recognizing the Town of Powellsville and its centennial. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Wesson thanked citizens and staff for being able to attend the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. to meet with legislators and commissioners all over the country. He shared a Labor Market Overview handout from the Mideast Commission and stated that he will now serve as the Vice-President of the Commission.

Commissioner Bazemore shared her experience in Washington D.C. Some of the topics discussed at the conference included Medicaid expansion, and the need for broadband. She shared a new initiative called TestIt, an app that can test broadband speeds. The 2020 Census was also discussed at the Conference and she shared the importance of making sure residents understand the significance of the Census. She indicated that the Board should have a town hall meeting to discuss the Census and the beginning stages of the Complete Count Committee (CCC).

Commissioner Atkins had no reports at this time.

JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Qudre Joyner commented on the Road Provision stating that it was much needed but “mediocre” and asked for clarification on “lien”. He suggested that the County send out surveys to citizens and for the Board to provide more research regarding the Provision. He inquired about the maintenance of public roads in the County. Commissioner Wesson explained that highways are maintained by NCDOT but there is a local NCDOT project priority list for the County. Qudre gave insight on the need for broadband internet, especially for the Census, and to communicate with his age group. He apologized on behalf of his counterpart’s absence, stating that there was a sudden family emergency.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jerry Cowand, II followed up about his earlier comments by stating that he had an “eye opening experience” at tonight’s meeting, and that he knew the citizens of the County truly had no idea of the time that is required to serve as a Commissioner. He thanked the Board for their service and shared that he was grateful to the Board, and closed by stating that he would continue to pray for them as they continue their service to the County.

ADJOURN

Vice Chairman Atkins **ADJOURNED** the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Greg Atkins, Vice Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board



C-2

Windsor, North Carolina
March 11, 2019
WORK 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
Ernestine (Byrd) Bazemore, District V

Absent: John Trent, District IV

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer
Clerk to the Board Sarah Tinkham
Finance Officer William Roberson
Assistant to the County Manager Dominique Walker
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs
Soil & Water Director Vic Thompson

Town of Windsor Representatives: Mayor James Hoggard
Commissioner Cathy Wilson
Commissioner Randy Walston
Commissioner David Overton
Commissioner Randy Whitaker
Town Administrator Allen Castelloe

Sarah Stalls of the Bertie-Ledger Advance was present from the media.

WORK SESSION

Dr. Stan Riggs of formerly of East Carolina University, representing NC LOW (Land of Water) provided a PowerPoint presentation to both governing bodies (Town of Windsor and Bertie County Board of Commissioners, entitled “From Rivers to Sounds in the Bertie Water Crescent—A water-based vision for sustainable eco-tourism and environmental education.”

Dr. Riggs reminded the audience of the multi-phased engagement with both local jurisdictions to build upon the local investments to support eco-tourism, the importance of public education regarding the County's natural resources and environment, and the science of calculating the impacts of the water systems including the Roanoke River, Cashie River, Chowan River and the Albemarle Sound.

Dr. Riggs reviewed the five water hubs for this project:

- 1) Windsor on the Cashie River
- 2) Sans Souci on the Lower Cashie River Estuary
- 3) Salmon Creek Rivers to Sounds
- 4) Weeping Mary on the Roanoke River
- 5) Colerain on the Chowan River Estuary River

His recommendations included following the steps needed to have the Bertie Water Crescent (Roanoke River, Cashie River, Chowan River and Albemarle Sound) designated as a National Water Trail. Dr. Riggs referred to the natural resources of Bertie County as "world class waterways" with significant value for eco-tourism, recreation and environmental education.

Dr. Riggs also mentioned NC LOW's recent public education workshops conducted over the past six months for the elementary and middle school science teachers in the Bertie County School system. He was quite impressed with their enthusiasm and support for this curriculum.

Dr. Riggs reported on the development of a public television documentary by UNC-TV Exploring North Carolina and Our State Magazine producers who will be in the County during the month March and April. He indicated that there is serious interest in the eco-tourism and economic development opportunities for Bertie County with various agencies in North Carolina.

He also suggested the Board find interested and influential County leaders to serve on a committee to help these efforts move forward. County Manager Sauer also noted that Steve Biggs has recommended a local consultant, Ms. Robin Payne who is preparing a proposal outlining key steps for the Board to consider to develop the initial public access to the Albemarle Sound, conducting a visioning workshop and an action plan for outreach and project development.

The Board of Commissioners commended Dr. Riggs for his presentation.

Representatives from the Town of Windsor also thanked Dr. Riggs for all of his work. Mayor Hoggard stated his sincere belief in the value of the suggestions being made by Dr. Riggs and he stated that he and the Town of Windsor would be ready to run with the ideas when the County deems it is time to do so.

During a brief recess the two Boards enjoyed refreshments prior to the start of the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

John Trent, Chairman

Sarah S. Tinkham, Clerk to the Board



C-3



C-4



BERTIE COUNTY

106 DUNDEE STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 530
WINDSOR, NORTH CAROLINA
27983
(252) 794-5300
FAX: (252) 794-5327
WWW.CO.BERTIE.NC.US

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JOHN TRENT, Chairman
GREG ATKINS, Vice Chairman
RONALD WESSON
ERNESTINE (BYRD) BAZEMORE
TAMMY A. LEE

Resolution Celebrating the 100th Birthday of Mrs. Beulah Bernice Bond McBride

WHEREAS, Mrs. Beulah B. McBride was born Beulah Bond on March 24th, 1919 and celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday, March 24, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Beulah was born in the Town of Windsor, Bertie County, to father Haywood Bond and to mother Emma Lisa Outlaw Bond and was the 19th of 20 children between them; and

WHEREAS, her father, Haywood Bond, built a school, named after his death the Carter-Bond School, on his property so that children in the area could be educated and where her mother, Emma Lisa Outlaw Bond, was a school teacher.

WHEREAS, Beulah graduated high school at 16 years old and moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Beulah started working as a waitress and later began working as a seamstress apart of the amalgamated garments union; and

WHEREAS, Beulah was married in 1943 to Mr. Jennings McBride Sr.; as a result of their union, two (2) children were born, Jean Elbert and Jennings McBride Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Beulah and Jennings had their home built in Trevoise, Pennsylvania in 1967 and were residents of Bensalem township for over 50 years and belonged to St. Mathews United Methodist church; and

WHEREAS, throughout her 100 years, Mrs. McBride has belonged to various groups including the United Methodist Women and Wings of Victory and has lived a blessed life surrounded by friends and family.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DOES HEREBY congratulate Mrs. Beulah McBride on her 100th birthday on March 24, 2019 and proudly join family, friends and loved ones in paying special tribute to this very special member of our community.

This the 1st day of April, 2019.

John Trent, Chair of the Board