

**Windsor, North Carolina
December 7, 2020
REGULAR MEETING**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a regularly scheduled meeting today inside the Commissioners Room, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was hosted partially in person, and partially via Zoom (conference call). 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 (Zoom)

Absent: None

Staff Present: County Manager Juan Vaughan, II
Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston
Finance Director William Roberson

Staff Present (Zoom): HR/Risk Management Director Cortney Ward
Emergency Management Director Mitch Cooper

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wesson called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

OATHS OF OFFICE

Annie Wilson, Bertie County Register of Deeds, was present to administer the oaths of office to Commissioner Ron Wesson and Commissioner John Trent.

ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR PRESIDED BY COUNTY MANAGER VAUGHAN

County Manager Juan Vaughan presided over the election of the 2021 Chair of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. This process was completed in accordance with NCGS § 153A-39.

The full statute is listed below:

NCGS § 153A-39

Selection of chairman and vice-chairman; powers and duties. [During] its first regular meeting in December of each odd-numbered year, the board of commissioners shall choose one of its members as chairman for the ensuing year, unless the chairman is elected as such by the people or otherwise designated by law.

The board shall also at that time choose a vice-chairman to act in the absence or disability of the chairman. If the chairman and the vice-chairman are both absent from a meeting of the board, the members present may choose a temporary chairman. The chairman is the presiding officer of the board of commissioners. Unless excused by rule of the board, the presiding officer has the duty to vote on any question before the board.

The floor was opened for nominations for the 2021 Board Chair.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to nominate Tammy Lee as the 2021 Chair of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Atkins **SECONDED** the motion.

Commissioner Bazemore made a **MOTION** to nominate Commissioner Wesson as the 2021 Chair of the Bertie Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion.

At this time, Manager Vaughan asked for a roll call vote for the first motion on the floor, which was the nomination of Commissioner Lee as Chair. Commissioner Trent, Commissioner Lee, and Commissioner Atkins voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Wesson and Commissioner Bazemore cast dissenting votes. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 3-2 vote.

The floor was opened for nominations for the 2021 Vice Chair.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to nominate Commissioner Atkins as 2021 Vice Chair.

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** to nominate Commissioner Trent as the 2021 Vice Chair. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion.

At this time, Commissioner Atkins thanked Commissioner Wesson for the nomination, but respectfully declined.

With no further nominations for Vice Chair, Manager Vaughan asked for a roll call vote for the motion and second of Commissioner Trent being the 2021 Vice Chair. Commissioner Trent, Commissioner Wesson, Commissioner Lee, and Commissioner Atkins voted in the affirmative. Commissioner Bazemore cast the dissenting vote. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 4-1 vote.

5-MINUTE RECESS

The meeting was recessed for 5 minutes. Name plates were changed and Commissioners switched seats per the restructure.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Chair Lee thanked Commissioner Wesson for his service and leadership and the Board for their vote of confidence and support.

Vice Chair Trent thanked Commissioner Wesson for his service to the Board and community.

Commissioner Wesson thanked the Board for the second opportunity to serve as Chair. He also thanked the citizens for their vote and electing him for another 4-year term even though he ran unopposed. He announced that this term will be his last term as he does not plan to seek re-election after serving for 12 years.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Lee asked Director Cortney Ward if there were any public comments. Director Ward shared a comment from Andy White, who stated, "A progressive agenda is a good thing moving Bertie County forward."

APPOINTMENTS & REPORTS

Bertie County Democratic Party Recommendation – Chair Wesley Dudley

On behalf of the Bertie County Democratic Party, Chair Wesley Dudley thanked the Board for inviting him and stated, in accordance with NCGS, the Democratic Party met to provide a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners to fill the anticipated vacancy.

The process began by asking citizens in District V to submit a letter of interest to the Democratic Party followed by a fair and impartial interview via Zoom. Each precinct was then charged to deliberate and speak with constituents in the community. Chair Dudley stated that after votes were cast, James Lee received 76% of the votes and is the individual the Democratic Party would like to recommend for appointment.

Chair Dudley mentioned that he understood the Democratic Party's role to provide a recommendation and the decision of whom is appointed rests with the Board of Commissioners. He further stated that he hoped the Board would acknowledge the voice of the people since the process included the precincts of the county and was conducted in a fair and impartial manner.

The four candidates who submitted letters of interest and were interviewed included Carl Bond, Ron Roberson, Michael Williams, and James Lee.

New Library & Cooperative Extension Facility Update – MHA Works Project Architects Amber Idol & Dani Hoff

Project Architect Amber Idol began with an overview of construction activity. She also stated that all of the furniture has been ordered and should begin being delivered by January 11th.

Project Architect Dani Hoff mentioned that the completion date of this project was November 27th, so we are behind schedule. She further explained that biweekly meetings have begun with the contractor, Manager Vaughan, and Director Roberson. The contractors have confirmed that the building will be ready for furniture delivery on January 11th.

Some material deliveries could further extend the date of completion.

First Colony Foundation Archaeological Research Results & Recommendations – Nicholas Lucchetti, Principal Investigator

Principal Investigator Nicholas Lucchetti, along with Phil Evans and Clay Swindell, made a presentation to share some of the findings on Site Y. Investigator Lucchetti stated 72 5-foot squares have been excavated and revealed some artifacts associated with a small group of Roanoke Colonist settlers.

Commissioner Wesson inquired of the next step moving forward to continue leveraging this in a positive way. Phil Evans stated that more archaeological work is needed because there is more to be learned from TGOW, also called Site Y, and Salmon Creek area. He further stated that merging the interests of the County, State, and Town of Windsor would make this story far-reaching and compelling.

Presentation to Commissioner Ernestine Bazemore, Senator- Elect

On behalf of the Board, Chair Lee congratulated Commissioner Bazemore on winning the Senate seat in our district and presented a plaque honoring her commitment to public service to the citizens of Bertie County.

Commissioner Trent thanked Commissioner Bazemore for her service and congratulated her on winning the Senate race.

Commissioner Wesson mentioned how deserving Commissioner Bazemore is of the beautiful plaque and expressed his excitement for her continuing to serve the citizens of Bertie County and neighboring counties.

Commissioner Atkins thanked Commissioner Bazemore for her service.

Commissioner Bazemore thanked everyone for their kind words and for the service provided as members of the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Register of Deeds Fees Report – November 2020
2. Approve Tax Release Journal – October 2020
3. Approve Tax Release Journal – November 2020

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve Consent Agenda Items #1-3. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.



Bertie County Register of Deeds

Annie F. Wilson
Register of Deeds

P.O. Box 340
Windsor, NC 27983
252-794-5309
www.bertie-live.inttek.net

NORTH CAROLINA
BERTIE COUNTY

TO: THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Agreeable to and in compliance with Chapter 590 of the Public Local Laws of North Carolina, Sessions 1913, I beg leave to submit the following statement of all fees, commissions, etc. of any kind collected by me as Register of Deeds for the month of **NOVEMBER 2020** and for an itemized statement thereof, I respectfully refer you to the following books in my office.

AMOUNT SUBJECT TO GS 161-50.2

10-0030-4344-01	REAL ESTATE REGISTRATION-----	\$3,116.00
10-0030-4344-03	VITAL STATISTICS-----	\$930.00
10-0050-4839-02	MISCELLANEOUS(NOTARY OATHS/PHOTO COPIES, ETC)-----	\$163.55
10-0030-4344-04	NO. MARRIAGE LICENSE----- 8 @60.00	\$480.00
		<u>\$4,689.55</u>
10-0018-4240-01	N. C. STATE EXCISE STAMP TAX-----	\$4,161.00
10-0030-4344-10	STATE TREASURER FEE----- 85 @\$6.20-----	\$527.00
	STATE VITAL RECORDS----- 2 @14.00	\$28.00
		<u>\$9,405.55</u>
10-0000-1251-00	A/R IN/OUT(REFUND)-----	
		<u>\$9,405.55</u>

Annie F. Wilson

REGISTER OF DEEDS - BERTIE COUNTY

By: *Shahedra L. Williams, Act.*

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

D/T /MORTGAGES-----	21 @\$6.20=	\$130.20
ADDITIONAL PAGES-----	@\$0.40=	
DEEDS & OTHER INSTRUMENTS-----	79 @\$1.94=	\$153.26



Bertie County Tax Department
PO Box 527
106 Dundee St.
Windsor, NC 27983
Phone: (252) 794-5310
Fax: (252) 794-5357

December 01, 2020

William Roberson
Bertie County Finance Officer
Windsor, NC 27983

Dear Mr. Roberson:

Attached you will find a (1) Computer Printout and, (2) Copies of the appropriate pages of the "Tax Release Journal" (Ledger) manually maintained in the tax office, both relative to Tax Releases which are now ready for your approval.

The releases herein are for the month of **November** and this request for your approval is made pursuant to a "Resolution of the Board of Commissioners" dated August 5, 1985. This may also serve as your report to the Board of Commissioners required by the same "Resolution."

Respectfully Submitted,


Tax Administrator

Approved on _____ 20____

Tax Collections

STC020301

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Balance a Group

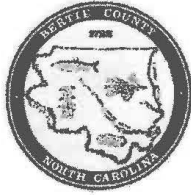
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Group: RLS*20*335
Type: A Abatement/Relea
Status: 0 Open

Group Total:	\$4,070.02-	Group Transaction Count:	23
Transactions Total:	\$4,070.02-	Transaction File Count:	23
Difference:	\$0.00	Difference:	0

=====

Enter certify batch as balanced(B) or cancel(XX)



Bertie County Tax Department
PO Box 527
106 Dundee St.
Windsor, NC 27983
Phone: (252) 794-5310
Fax: (252) 794-5357

November 12, 2020

William Roberson
Bertie County Finance Officer
Windsor, NC 27983

Dear Mr. Roberson:

Attached you will find a (1) Computer Printout and, (2) Copies of the appropriate pages of the "Tax Release Journal" (Ledger) manually maintained in the tax office, both relative to Tax Releases which are now ready for your approval.

The releases herein are for the month of **October** and this request for your approval is made pursuant to a "Resolution of the Board of Commissioners" dated August 5, 1985. This may also serve as your report to the Board of Commissioners required by the same "Resolution."

Respectfully Submitted,



Tax Administrator

Approved on _____ 20____

RLS*20*289	DATE	NAME	CODE	LEVY	ADV	PEN	INT	TOTAL
2020	10/15/2020	Daniels, Margaret 20A6874264340 Corrected acres	G01	\$6.32	\$0.00			\$6.32
	10/20/2020	Cherry, James 20A6801507313 Disabled Veteran Exp. Left off	G01	\$382.50	\$0.00			\$382.50
	10/26/2020	Forehand, Gail 20A6856273982 Use Value left off	G01	\$105.07	\$0.00			\$105.07
	10/26/2020	Forehand, Gail 20A6846962796 Use Value left off	G01	358.11	0			\$358.11
	10/26/2020	Forehand, Gail 20A6856378041 Use Value left off	G01	198.27	0			\$198.27
								\$1,050.27

4. Budget Amendments
 - a. BA #20-15
 - b. BA #21-01

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve Budget Amendment #20-15. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

After some discussion from Finance Director William Roberson, Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve Budget Amendment #21-01. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously

BUDGET AMENDMENT				
		# 20-15		
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-0025-4433-08	\$	7,000	10-4330-5399-57	\$ 7,000
HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (HSGP) - HAZMAT 2020				
APPROVED / /2020				

BUDGET AMENDMENT				
		# 21-01		
	INCREASE			INCREASE
17-4327-5399-01	\$	62,113	911 FUNDS	17-0090-4991-99 \$ 62,113
IMPLEMENTATION OF EMD (EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH / 911 FUND BALANCE)				
APPROVED ON 7/13/2020, DID NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THIS YEAR - REALLOCATE FUNDS.				
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-0025-4587-02	\$	2,000		10-4950-5399-33 \$ 2,000
TO SETUP BUDGET - FOOD AND NUTRITION GRANT (FOOD LION)				
	INCREASE			DECREASE
10-0025-4495-07	\$	15,750		10-0090-4991-99 \$ 14,154
				INCREASE
				10-4950-5399-30 \$ 1,596
TO SETUP BUDGET - EFNEP PROGRAM (GRANT AMOUNT RECEIVED)				
EXPANDED FOOD & NUTRITION				
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-0025-4495-11	\$	750		10-4950-5399-37 \$ 750
TO SETUP BUDGET - 4-H COOKING CAMP (GRANT AMOUNT RECEIVED)				
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-0025-4433-24	\$	8,235		10-4330-5433-24 \$ 8,235
TO SETUP BUDGET FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANT				
HMEP - BRING OVER FROM LAST YEAR - REQUESTED EXTENDED TIME				
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-0025-4433-26	\$	53,680		10-4170-5400-13 \$ 53,680
CARES ACT - ELECTIONS				
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-0025-4417-01	\$	10,000		10-4170-5399-10 \$ 10,000
HAVA GRANT - ELECTIONS				
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-0025-4417-10	\$	23,000		10-4170-5398-70 \$ 23,000
EAAF GRANT - ELECTIONS				
(ELECTION ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE FUND)				
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-0025-4417-11	\$	19,000		10-4170-5400-14 \$ 19,000
2020 CARES ACT SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS				
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-0025-4586-55	\$	15,231		10-4310-5499-80 \$ 15,231
2020 CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY GRANT FROM NCDPS - SHERIFF'S OFFICE				
	INCREASE			INCREASE
10-0025-4431-23	\$	24,500		10-4310-5499-97 \$ 24,500
SETUP BUDGET FOR 2020 GRANT FROM NCDPS (SHERIFF'S OFFICE - BODY CAMERAS)				

BUDGET AMENDMENT				
		# 21-01		
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-0025-4586-50	\$	17,741	CONG	10-5860-5397-50 \$ 1,051
			HDM	10-5860-5397-51 \$ 8,872
			GEN P	10-5860-5397-52 \$ 7,818
2020 FAMILIES FIRST ACT - COA				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
12-0025-4586-30	\$	2,681	APS	12-5380-5411-53 \$ 2,681
COVID ADV STIPEND 2020 - ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (NEW LINE ITEM)				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
12-0025-4586-35	\$	11,309	CPS	12-5380-5411-54 \$ 11,309
COVID ADV STIPEND 2020 - CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES (NEW LINE ITEM)				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
12-0025-4586-18	\$	152,785	PAN-LIEAP	12-5380-5411-50 \$ 152,785
LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP) - PANDEMIC LIEAP				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-0050-4839-04	\$	38,958		10-4190-5580-00 \$ 38,958
ALLOCATE INSURANCE CLAIM MONEY TO REPAIR ABC STORE AND LIGHT TOWER BUILDING HURRICANE ISAIAS DAMAGE ON 8/4/2020				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-0050-4839-04	\$	11,554		10-4190-5580-00 \$ 11,554
ALLOCATE INSURANCE CLAIM MONEY - REPAIR DETECTIVE'S BUILDING AND EMS ST #1 HURRICANE ISAIAS DAMAGE ON 8/4/2020				
		INCREASE		INCREASE
10-6320-5250-00	\$	2,000		10-0050-4852-14 \$ 104,000
10-6320-5260-05	\$	5,000		
10-6320-5290-00	\$	20,000		
10-6320-5352-00	\$	3,000		
10-6320-5399-00	\$	1,000		
10-6320-5399-04	\$	58,000		
10-6320-5399-50	\$	15,000		
SETUP BUDGET FOR HURRICANE ISAIAS RECOVERY				

BUDGET AMENDMENT

		# 21-01			
		INCREASE			INCREASE
10-4310-5499-97	\$	19,500	EQ GRANT	10-0090-4991-99	\$ 183,150
10-4950-5399-30	\$	1,904	EFNEP		
10-4950-5399-32	\$	3,236	ESMM		
10-4950-5399-37	\$	753	4H CAMP		
10-4950-5400-13	\$	2,500	COVID		
10-4950-5400-21	\$	1,449	L TO SWIM		
10-4950-5400-25	\$	3,383	AG CAR.		
10-4960-5400-05	\$	2,840	AQ. WEED		
10-5860-5399-05	\$	4,175	SHIIP		
10-5860-5399-50	\$	14	2HOT2TROT		
10-5860-5400-15	\$	3,643	MIPPA		
10-6100-5697-30	\$	12,543	BMRJ		
10-6120-5399-15	\$	148	SEN/MOVE		
10-5860-5399-95	\$	23,175	EDTAP	ROAP	
10-6100-5695-20	\$	22,830	RGP		
12-5380-5399-95	\$	9,402	EDTAP	12-0070-3981-10	\$ 18,034
12-5380-5399-94	\$	8,632	WF	10-9800-5980-12	\$ 18,034
10-6360-5121-00	\$	25,000	COVID	REM HHS FUNDS	\$ 63,023
10-6360-5181-00	\$	3,000	COVID		
10-6360-5182-00	\$	4,000	COVID		
10-6360-5183-00	\$	5,000	COVID		
10-6360-5290-02	\$	11,336	COVID		
10-6360-5399-00	\$	10,567	COVID		
10-6360-5499-06	\$	2,230	COVID		
10-6360-5499-90	\$	1,890	COVID		
TO ADJUST GRANT MONEY/ CARRY OVER PROJECTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR:					
SHER - EQUIPMENT GRANT					
COOP - EXPANDED FOOD & NUTRITION					
COOP - EAT SMART-MOVE MORE					
COOP - 4H COOKING CAMP					
COOP - COVID RESPONSE GRANT					
COOP - LEARN TO SWIM					
COOP - AG CAROLINA - LIVESTOCK					
SOIL - AQUATIC WEED CONTROL					
COA - SHIIP					
COA - 2HOT2TROT					
COA - MIPPA					
BMRJ FEASIBILITY STUDY					
P/R - SENIORS ON THE MOVE					
ROAP CARRYOVER					
HHS FUNDS					
COVID - SALARIES					
COVID - FICA					
COVID - RETIREMENT					
COVID - INS					
COVID - SUPPLIES					
COVID - CONT SERVICES					
COVID - CONV. FEES					
COVID - EQUIP < 5,000					
APPROVED / /2020					

5. Approve Bids on Real Property from County Online Auction – November 14, 2020
 - a. 6800-57-5311
 - b. 6910-16-3024
 - c. 5836-88-5393
 - d. 6801-38-7512
 - e. 6809-06-9555
 - f. 6802-42-7948
 - g. 6719-07-9171
 - h. 6930-37-4221
 - i. 6930-37-8341
 - j. 5829-50-5296
 - k. 6810-23-4624
 - l. 6810-23-8257
 - m. 5883-95-0688
 - n. 5883-95-0751
 - o. 6828-09-0637
 - p. 5883-56-2279
 - q. 6859-87-1576

Manager Vaughan explained a document in the agenda packet that showed the winning bids for each property in addition to property values and the amount of taxes that would be paid on each property in the future.

Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea stated that the turnout for the auction was better than he expected and the bids are comparable to bids that have been accepted on auctioned properties in the past.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve all of the bids presented. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Review of Public Officials' Bonds

Chair Lee stated that in accordance with NCGS 58-72-10, the Board is required to examine and approve the bonds of the Sheriff, Tax Administrator, Finance Director, and Register of Deeds.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve the bonds as presented. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Bertie County

Board of Commissioners

MEETING DATE: Monday, December 7, 2020

SUBJECT: Review of Public Officials' Bond

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Pursuant to N.C. General Statute §58-72-20 (and the Board's Rules of Procedure), the next order of business at the Board's annual organizational meeting is the annual review and approval of the size and issuer of the bonds for county public officials.

Under §58-72-20:

The bonds of the officers named in G.S. 58-72-10 shall be carefully examined on the first Monday in December of every year, and if it appears that the security has been impaired, or for any cause become insufficient to cover the amount of money or property or to secure the faithful performance of the duties of the office, then the bond shall be renewed or strengthened, the insufficient security increased within the limits prescribed by law, and the impaired security shall be made good; but no renewal, or strengthening, or additional security shall increase the penalty of said bond beyond the limits prescribed for the term of office.

The following are the current bond amounts:

PUBLIC OFFICIAL	BOND AMOUNT	BOND COMPANY
John Holley, Sheriff	\$25,000.00	R.L.I. Insurance Company
Tax Administrator (Position Bond)	\$50,000.00	Cooper Insurance Agency/CNA Surety
Finance Director (Position Bond)	\$50,000.00	Cooper Insurance Agency/CNA Surety
Annie Wilson, Register of Deeds	\$50,000.00	Cooper Insurance Agency/CNA Surety

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

It is requested that the Board approve the bonds.

If the Board is so inclined, the following motion is suggested:

"I move that the Board approve the public officials' bonds as proposed."

DISCUSSION

Recommendation of Debt Write-Off Schedule for Bertie County Emergency Services

Emergency Management Director Mitch Cooper stated that Emergency Services began debt setoff this year. With a number of unsettled accounts for 911 calls, we are recommending the use of a debt write-off schedule that can be used to settle the outstanding accounts. For patients without insurance who request hardship consideration, we recommend using the sliding fee scale provided by the NC Division of Public Health.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the debt write-off schedule as requested. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Looking Ahead: State of the County Amid COVID-19

Manager Vaughan shared the latest COVID data for the county, including Bertie County being in the Red (Tier 3) meaning Critical Community Spread. As a result, Manager Vaughan shared his recommendation for the County to continue to operate by having its facilities open to the public by appointment only.

The Board expressed its consent and stated there have been no complaints with the current operations.

Commissioners' Reports (E)

Commissioner Trent

The Lewiston Community Center is close to completion. COVID related issues have continued to cause delays; however, it should be complete within the next 30 days.

Commissioner Wesson

Commissioner Wesson congratulated Chair Lee on her role as Chair. He also stated that he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Albemarle Regional Alliance for Families and Children.

He thanked Commissioner Trent for his service on the NCACC Legislative Goals Committee.

Commissioner Wesson also took a moment to address rumors that he wanted to close businesses in response to COVID-19. He stated that he did not wish to close businesses, but strongly supports the wearing of masks for those who can, physical distancing where possible, and the washing of hands.

Commissioner Atkins

Commissioner Atkins expressed his desire to see the process of the election of Chair and Vice Chair change to a rotation system that is fair for everyone.

Commissioner Lee

Chair Lee thanked the Board for its confidence in her as Chair. The Airport is behind schedule, but is making progress. All of the furniture has been delivered.

County Manager's Reports (F)

Manager Vaughan congratulated Commissioner Bazemore on being elected Senator. He also congratulated the new Chair and Vice Chair of the Board.

Manager Vaughan stated that the County celebrated Employee Appreciation Week last week and County staff was very deserving of it.

Manager Vaughan stated that all of the personal property included in the online auction was bid on, and all but one item has been sold and removed from County property for a total profit of \$28,365.

Manager Vaughan stated that he and Water and Soil Conservation Director Vic Thompson were notified of the County's receipt of a grant from the Emergency Watershed Protection Program in the amount of approximately \$140,000. This grant requires a 10% match from the County that is reimbursable.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the acceptance of the grant with the 10% match required. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

County Attorney's Reports (G)

There was no report from Assistant County Attorney Huddleston.

Public Comments

Chair Lee asked Director Ward if there were any additional comments. Director Ward shared the following comments:

- (1) Dr. Barber, NAACP President, stated, “With no personal regard to Commissioner Lee, I do not feel, as a member of the public, that she yet has the experience needed to lead our Board in the way it should go. I will continue to support Bertie County as a community leader and offer prayers for the progression of Bertie County. I feel another term with Commissioner Wesson would have been more beneficial for Bertie County.”
- (2) Loletha Ward stated, “As we are all Democrats except Mr. Trent, I am asking that you respect our wishes for Ms. Bazemore’s replacement.
- (3) Andy White stated, “Bertie County could market this for tourism if it isn’t happening already. That would be part of a progressive agenda.”
- (4) Dr. Barber, NAACP President, stated, “Not quite sure of the First Colony Foundation briefing, but Bertie County does not need any reminders of slave quarters or anything that deals with slavery, including Confederate statues. If this proposal is towards an erected site of history, I believe the majority of citizens would agree items of this type of history should be placed in a museum or photos for those interested in such history. This type of tourism would not be good for our unified progression of tourism in Bertie County. Tourism should be pinpointed to the majority interests of the county citizens and visitors.”
- (5) Corey Ballance stated, “Thank you for your service, Commissioner Bazemore. May God continue to bless you on your new journey.
- (6) Andy White stated, “What source did Commissioner Lee hear that the vaccine is coming next week and what is considered radical action?”
- (7) J. Sharpe stated, “Unless the numbers have changed drastically since December 4th, Bertie County is in a lot worse condition than the 8 counties as reported by Albemarle Regional Health Services. The only two counties worse than Bertie were Pasquotank and Hertford on that day.
- (8) Andy White stated, “Sounds like the Board needs to change its policies and regulations to who becomes Chair and Co-Chair.
- (9) Corey Ballance stated, “I am in agreement with rotating Chair and Co-Chair annually.”
- (10) Andy White asked, “Does anyone know about the interstate that is to be coming through in the future.
- (11) Jody Sary stated, “There are proposal maps online on the DOT website. However, there is no timeline.”
- (12) Andy White stated, “I would like to thank the Board for the opportunity to speak tonight. I am coming back home to eastern NC from northern VA and it is nice to be home. Thank you all.”

Chair Lee stated that she serves on the Albemarle Regional Health Services Board and her comment about the vaccine coming next week came from Director Battle Betts.

Commissioner Wesson stated the interstate has been approved, but not funded. It's not likely that funding will occur unless there is some federal funding.

Commissioner Wesson further commented that the First Colony Foundation discussion doesn't have anything to do with slavery. It's an opportunity for us to show that Bertie County is a part of the Lost Colony history.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to return to Open Session. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to instruct the payment of \$70,000 pursuant to the terms of the settlement agreement in the case of Latria Norman vs. Bertie County Department of Social Services, File Number COA20-761. Commissioner Atkins **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Chair Lee thanked the attorneys for their assistance and Director Ward for serving as our Zoom Administrator.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:45 PM. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.