

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**March 13, 2020**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a **SPECIAL MEETING** today inside the Commissioners Room, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. The following members were present or absent:

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

Absent: None

Staff Present: Interim County Manager Juan Vaughan, II (after Closed Session)  
Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston  
Clerk to the Board Sarah Tinkham  
Human Resources Director Cortney Ward  
TGOW Project Manager Robin Payne  
Economic Development Director Steve Biggs

No media members were present.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wesson called the Work Session to order.

## OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to go into Closed 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. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion.

The Board shifts into Closed Session, but shortly returns to Open Session.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to move forward with the promotion of Mr. Juan Vaughan, II at the salary of \$100,000 per year. Time will be given for Mr. Vaughan to review the proposed contract that will be effective April 1<sup>st</sup> if all parties agree to the terms. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Board reached consensus to allow Mr. Vaughan to begin the process in hiring an Assistant County Manager.

Chair Wesson noted that per Mr. Vaughan, another special meeting would need to be held for the Board to consider a resolution to levy the additional quarter of a cent to the County sales tax. NC law requires a 10-day advertising period in advance of this meeting where the Board plans to consider the resolution.

A meeting date and location of Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM here in the Commissioners Room was suggested.

At this time, they discussed whether or not the Board should host Monday's meeting due to the recommendations being made by Governor Roy Cooper to not host gatherings of 100 or more people due to the risk of coronavirus.

Various options to host the meeting were discussed, but no resolution was reached at this time.

## **COVID-19 Pandemic**

Policies were discussed regarding COVID-19 including that County employees be strongly discouraged from participating in unnecessary travel.

Commissioner Bazemore inquired if the County has considered a State of Emergency on the County level, and this item will continue to be discussed.

No decision was made at this time.

## **PARTF Grant Component presentation by Robin Payne, TGOW Project Coordinator**

Ms. Payne distributed a press release that was drafted entitled, “Bertie County 4H Responds to TGOW – PARTF Presentation.”

She also submitted the PARTF master plan from VINES Engineering to the Board for their review and she briefly highlighted several items in Phase 1. Approval is being sought for several components in order to meet the PARTF submission deadline on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board asked for the Interim County Manager and Economic Development Director to contact VINES and discuss some minor cost concerns.

The consensus of the Board was to move forward with Option B laid out in the plan.

The Board requested that the project include local contractors, community colleges, and youth groups to be able to assist in the building and any other needs throughout the completion of this project.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve the PARTF grant submission in the amount of \$500,000 (Option B). Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Then, Ms. Payne began discussing Phase 2 of the project which could include a pavilion, spiritual retreats involving baptisms, revivals, etc. Restrooms, drive-in campsites, and walking trails were also included.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** for the Board to move forward with the Master Plan submitted by VINES Architecture. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** for the project team to apply for the RDBG Technical Assistance grant from the USDA in the amount of \$150,000. Commissioner Bazemore **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The UNC School of Government has also received a copy of this draft and they will be assisting in drafting an economic impact statement. That statement is forthcoming.

Ms. Payne also discussed the need for an additional public input meeting in the month of April pending the events surrounding the coronavirus.

The project team also noted their need for the Board’s work session on April 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the capital improvement plan that would strengthen the PARTF grant application.

Destination by Design team will be visiting the County on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> which could be subject to change. Their goal is to tour all relevant historic and tourism attractions and to draft a proposal for the Board to consider for tourism marketing strategies.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to **ADJOURN**. Vice Chair Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15PM.

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Ronald Wesson, Chairman

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Sarah Tinkham, Clerk to the Board