

Windsor, North Carolina
September 8, 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.
 County Attorney Lloyd Smith
 Finance Director William Roberson
 Economic Development Director Steve Biggs

Staff Present (Zoom): Clerk to the Board Sarah Tinkham
 Council on Aging Director Venita Thompson

Cal Bryant of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald was present from the media via Zoom.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Wesson asked the Clerk if any public comments had been received for tonight's meeting, as well as to announce the methods the Board is currently using to receive public comments due to COVID-19.

The Clerk to the Board, Sarah Tinkham, summarized a public comment received by a Leann Lowers who is currently residing on Thompson Street in Windsor. Her concern pertained to a hurricane buyout program.

After a brief discussion, the Clerk was instructed to forward the comment to the Town of Windsor as the property in question is included Windsor's ETJ.

Chair Wesson also noted that an additional public comments session would be held at the end of tonight's meeting.

REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS

Introduction: Caroline Stephenson of Cultivator Bookmobile – children's book initiative, and recent Bertie event

Caroline Stephenson of the Cultivator Bookmobile presented via Zoom where she introduced the Board to her non-profit. The Bookmobile provides free access to children's books to those in Bertie, Northampton, and Hertford County. Periodically, Ms. Stephenson's organization hosts community events including a recent absentee ballot and CENSUS response event in Roxobel.

The Board thanked Ms. Stephenson for her report.

**Tropical Storm Isaias/Morning Road Tornado Recovery Updates by Emergency Services
Director, Mitch Cooper**

Mr. Cooper reported that 41 families are still currently displaced due to Hurricane Isaias and the Morning Road tornado.

Seven (7) additional campers are being set up this week, and state assistance has been secured to help with those expenses.

Nineteen families were not eligible for a camper, and are seeking other arrangements for long term housing.

The County has sent a declaration request to FEMA for emergency response and clean up in the amount of \$161,000.

It was noted that the task of case management must be passed off to the Department of Social Services, or another specialized entity. Over the last month, Bertie County Emergency Services has been not only responding to normal emergency calls, but to needs of storm victims.

There was also a brief discussion about the available mental health resources for these displaced families. Mr. Cooper reported that counseling services are strongly needed, and that some of the most seriously affected need both in person and phone counseling options.

The County is also seeking home rehabilitation options, and The Samaritan's Purse has committed to housing rehabilitation options in Bertie County.

Vice Chair Lee noted that all of the faith-based organizations working to respond to the aftermath of the storm are in "desperate need of volunteers."

Economic Development Director, Steve Biggs, came forward to provide a brief update about Southern Disaster Recovery's efforts to remove construction and demolition debris. This type of debris service was completed earlier today.

Also, the NCDOT is expected to begin vegetative debris clean up tomorrow, Wednesday, September 9, 2020. Citizens are encouraged to move all vegetative debris to the state's right of way for the best results.

There was a brief discussion about other debris removal concerns.

Mr. Biggs urged all citizens traveling through the area to please reduce their speed while workers are in the area completing cleanup efforts.

Chair Wesson also took this opportunity to discuss an update about the Bertie County Morning Road Tornado Relief Fund. As of this afternoon, the fund contains \$95,000.

There was a discussion about how the remainder of the funds should be used after the first two (2) distributions of funding had been completed in the last couple of weeks.

\$12,000 is currently being set aside for the lot rental fees per camper. Chair Wesson solicited other suggestions from the Board for best use of these donations as they are received by the County.

Chair Wesson reiterated that this fund was designed to assist those most affected by this disaster for food, temporary housing, and personal assistance needs.

Fire Study Review, Envirosafe

Gregory Grayson of NC Fire Chief Consulting discussed the recent fire study completed for Bertie County and all of its municipal fire departments.

He presented various strategies and suggestions on how to strengthen the fire system, as well as ensure its longevity.

After an extensive review, the Board commended the County's fire departments for their participation, as well Mr. Grayson for his commitment to this project.

The Board agreed that more time to review and process was needed before any further action could be taken.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

CPTA Board

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to reappoint Lewis C. Hoggard, III to the CPTA Board. Commissioner Atkins **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

VCOM Board

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to appoint Jon Powell to the Vidant Bertie/Chowan Director's Council. Vice Chair Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Rivers East WDB

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to reappoint Ronald Roberson to the Rivers East Workforce Development Board. Vice Chair Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Chair Wesson encouraged all citizens to consider each of the available Board vacancies as all are welcome to apply for appointment to any of the Boards.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Minutes for Regular Meeting 7-13-20

Approve Minutes for Closed Session 7-13-20

Approve Minutes for Emergency Meeting 7-23-20

Approve Minutes for Work Session 8-10-20

Approve Minutes for Closed Session 8-10-20

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve Consent Items #1-5. Vice Chair Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Register of Deeds Fees Report – July and August 2020

Vice Chair Lee made a **MOTION** to approve both the July and August 2020 Register of Deeds report. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Budget Amendments

Vice Chair Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the Budget Amendment presented in tonight's agenda packet. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENT

# 20-12			
	INCREASE		INCREASE
10-0050-4852-13	\$ 3,875	10-6360-5399-00	\$ 3,875
FEMA REIMBURSEMENT FOR CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE			
APPROVED ___ / ___ /2020			



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
 F.I.N. 80 - 0712287
 4220 MSC
 RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27699-4220

88-1052 NO 883716
 531

Payable at Par Through Federal Reserve System
 State Treasurer, Raleigh, NC
 Void After One Year

PAY ENTITY
 19PR

Date
 08/20/20

AMOUNT
 \$3,875.00

PAY Three thousand eight hundred and seventy five and 00/100 dollars

TO THE ORDER OF

COUNTY OF BERTIE
 P O BOX 530
 WINDSOR NC 27983

Ma Williams-Brown

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

⑈000883716⑈ ⑆053110594⑆ ⑆0000073⑈

19PR

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
 4220 MSC RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27699-4220

NO. 883716

DATE	INVOICE/CREDIT MEMO	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	INVOICE AMOUNT	DEDUCTIONS OR DISCOUNT	NET AMOUNT
08/06/20	10148		082020-0489	\$3,875.00		\$3,875.00
B1106	COVID-19 -- PW: 39					
			TOTALS	\$3,875.00	\$0.00	\$3,875.00

William Roberson

From: emgrants.nc.gov <no-reply@emgrants.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:56 AM
To: William Roberson
Cc: Mitch Cooper; Victoria Hoggard
Subject: [External] Project Version Applicant Notification

CAUTION: External links and attachments are present in this email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to William.Roberson@nc.gov.

Dear William Roberson,

Project #39 – 0 for 4487 COVID-19 has recently been awarded to Bertie, County Of by FEMA.

Please review the obligation details below:

Applicant Name: Bertie, County Of
Applicant FIPS: 015-99015-00
Project Number: #39
Project Title: Cleaning of EMS Building after Employee showed
Project Category: B - Emergency Protective Measures
Total Eligible Amount: \$3,875.00

Attached to the Version is a copy of your supplemental project application package that has been approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency / Department of Homeland Security under Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number 97.036 for 'Disaster Grants – Public Assistance (Presidentially Declared Disasters)'. Please note the Project Version Summary lists the approved amount for the Project and any administrative or management costs. To view this information, login to emgrants.nc.gov and navigate to the Project Version by clicking on this link: <http://emgrants.nc.gov/app/#51177>

- Please provide information concerning insurance settlements as soon as possible when applicable to any of your PW's so that we may expedite funding. Only uninsured losses for eligible work may receive funding.
- It is required by FEMA that you avoid any duplication of benefits for all project work that has been, or will be, completed. Please track funding you receive – insurance, other grants, loans or gifts – that appear to co-mingle with the funding you have or will receive from FEMA for this project and communicate those updates to your NCEM PA Grants Manager.
- Projects – both large and small – may be reviewed by FEMA for Special Considerations. This includes insurance (NFIP requirements and actual or anticipated insurance funds), Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) and Hazard Mitigation funding for Public Assistance projects (406 Mitigation).

Small projects are paid on estimate after FEMA has obligated the funding. Large projects will be reimbursed on actual documented expenditures. Prior to completion of any large project, the payments will be reimbursed to you up to 75% of the obligated Project Cost*. The final 25% of the total obligated project cost will be paid following a final inspection when the project is complete. You must request a final inspection from NCEM PA. (*Under certain circumstances where costs to the state and local entities exceed a certain threshold, FEMA will pay higher than the standard 75% portion that is typical. This is rare.)

Reimbursement requests (RFRs) are required for all large projects in order for payments to be authorized and submitted to the state's fiscal team. Clear and concise backup documentation that justify all costs must accompany these requests. Reimbursement Requests can be submitted via emgrants.nc.gov by clicking on the "Submit

Reimbursement Request" button located on the profile screen for Bertie, County Of. For certain disasters, both direct and indirect administrative costs can be reimbursed based on supporting documentation provided by Bertie, County Of.

For certain disasters, both direct and indirect administrative costs can be reimbursed based on supporting documentation provided by Craven County BOE. Pursuant to Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 13.40, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) is required to submit progress reports to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for every disaster assistance grant. Accordingly, each disaster assistance applicant (subrecipient) must submit monthly progress reports for all open large project grants to NCEM's Public Assistance staff. The first Progress Report for all large project grants will be due on the 10th day of the month following the date of FEMA obligation, and subsequent Progress Reports will be due on the 10th day of each month thereafter until project completion. Please refer to the FEMA Public Assistance Guide.

As the applicant, you have the right to appeal through the Recipient which is the N.C. Emergency Management Public Assistance program within 60 days from the receipt of a notice of an action or decision. Information on appeals is referenced in the FEMA Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide and in 2 CFR §206.606. Appeals must be submitted to NCEM's Public Assistance team using emgrants.nc.gov.

You are required to complete work within each project as defined in FEMA's approved scope of work as noted in your records for the disaster or within FEMA Grants Portal for all disasters that occurred starting in September 2018. Please comply with all necessary project management procedures to ensure that funds are expended in an appropriate manner. Time extension requests for eligible projects may be requested and submitted to NCEM's Public Assistance team using emgrants.nc.gov.

You are able to track the progress of your time extension requests, appeal or arbitration requests, scope of work changes and payment statuses using EMGrants ([link for access below](#)). If you have an agreed upon a fixed-cost offer for your project from FEMA, scope of work and cost changes are not allowed.

All accounting records should be maintained for three (3) years following closeout of your disaster file. In addition, all projects are subject to audit by the FEMA Office of Inspector General or by state auditors.

For additional Public Assistance Resources and Policy Guides, please [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management, Public Assistance office at (919) 825-2331.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Henderson-Bell
Public Assistance Manager

Note: If you do not yet have access to emgrants.nc.gov please proceed to submit an Access Request by clicking on this link: <https://emgrants.nc.gov/site/register.cfm>



P 1
| glacting

08/24/2020 10:27
1043wroberso

BERTIE COUNTY
G/L ACCOUNT DETAIL

Org: 106360 Object: 539900
CONTRACTED SERVICES 10 -6360-539900

YEAR PER JOURNAL EFF DATE	SRC T PO/REF2	REFERENCE	AMOUNT	P CHECK NO	WARRANT	VDR NAME/ITEM DESC	COMMENTS
2020 12	660	06/30/2020 API 1 6540	3,875.00	Y	194224063020C	CARENMASTER	EMS BUILD
2020 12	393	06/22/2020 APM 1 6006	1,225.52	Y	19353805220	CARENMASTER	DISINFECT

Total Amount: 5,100.52

** END OF REPORT - Generated by William Roberson **

Approve 2021 Commissioners meeting schedule + 2021 local/state holiday schedule as previously discussed on August 10th and July 13th

Vice Chair Lee inquired about the lack of community locations on the 2021 Commissioners meeting schedule. Per a brief discussion, community meeting locations could be determined at a later date depending on the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was consensus for the County to move forward with advertising the Commissioners meeting schedule, as well as the 2021 local/state holiday schedule provided in tonight's agenda packet.

The schedules are below:

2020 MEETING SCHEDULE - BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS			
Meeting Date	Time	Meeting Area	Meeting Location
1/4/2021	6:00 PM	Commissioners Room	106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC
*Wed., 1/20/2021	10:00 AM	Work Session TBD	Work Session TBD
2/1/2021	6:00 PM	Community TBD	Community TBD
*Tues., 2/17/2021	10:00 AM	Work Session TBD	Work Session TBD
3/15/2021	6:00 PM	Commissioners Room	106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC
4/26/2021	6:00 PM	Community TBD	Community TBD
5/3/2021	6:00 PM	Commissioners Room	106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC
*Tues., 6/1/2021	6:00 PM	Commissioners Room	106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC
6/14/2021	6:00 PM	Commissioners Room	BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING - 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC
7/12/2021	6:00 PM	Commissioners Room	106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC
8/2/2021	10:00 AM	Spivey Meeting Room	Roanoke Cashie River Center, 112 W. Water Street, Windsor, NC
8/16/2021	6:00 PM	Community TBD	Community TBD
*Tues., 9/7/2021	6:00 PM	Commissioners Room	106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC
10/4/2021	10:00 AM	Work Session TBD	Work Session TBD
10/18/2021	6:00 PM	Community TBD	Community TBD
11/1/2021	6:00 PM	Commissioners Room	106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC
12/6/2021	6:00 PM	Commissioners Room	106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC
*** If there are any questions regarding this calendar, please call the Clerk to the Board at (252)794-6110.***			
This schedule is subject to change. Please visit the County website (www.co.bertie.nc.us) to receive information about cancellations or meeting location changes.			
All meetings are scheduled on Monday unless denoted with an asterick(*).			



Bertie County

Board of Commissioners

2021 Holiday Schedule		
Holiday	Observance	Day of Week
New Year's Day	January 1, 2021	Friday
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday	January 18, 2021	Monday
Good Friday	April 2, 2021	Friday
Memorial Day	May 31, 2021	Monday
Freedom Day (Juneteenth)	June 18, 2021	Friday
Independence Day	July 5, 2021	Monday
Labor Day	September 6, 2021	Monday
Veterans Day	November 11, 2021	Thursday
Thanksgiving	November 25 & 26, 2021	Thursday & Friday
Christmas	December 23-24 & 27, 2021	Thursday, Friday & Monday

2019-2020 settlement statements, and the 2020-2021 Charge of the Tax Levy

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve the 2019-2020 settlement statements, and charge the Tax Assessor to levy the 2020-2021 tax rate. Commissioner Atkins **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Tax Release Journal

Vice Chair Lee made a **MOTION** to approve the Tax Release Journal included in tonight's agenda packet. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Invoice for Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Mid-East Commission

Chair Wesson expressed his thoughts about this invoice which included a strong recommendation to the Board to settle this matter by providing payment for this outstanding invoice.

He noted that to his knowledge, the other counties that participated in this program received presentation from Mid-East about the initiative. Each respective county has also paid their balance for these services.

Chair Wesson briefly summarized the timeline of events including conversations that were conducted with the previous County Manager, Scott Sauer. Chair Wesson noted that correspondence has been received from the Mid-East Commission about services rendered, and that the County has also discussed their concerns with the initial agreement to the project.

Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper, noted that he did not receive the amount of attention to his Emergency Operations Plan that he anticipated.

He was grateful for the partnership with the university, but he would prefer the university actually complete an update to the plan, and post it online on behalf of the County. This would only be applicable, however, if they were qualified to do this. This was his original expectation.

Finance Officer, William Roberson, inquired why the Mid-East Commission did not come forward to present this initiative at a Board meeting. As an alternative suggestion, he noted the Board could always contact the Mid-East Commissioner, and express our needs on again. If they are able to meet those needs, and present us with an update Emergency Operations Plan, the Board at that time could further consider paying the \$10,000 service fee.

Commissioner Lee noted her concern with the lack of presentation and follow up by the Mid-East Commission.

Chair Wesson replied that the former County Manager would have received follow up, and reportedly no reply was received.

Mr. Cooper noted that he had met with the instructor, and was not made aware of any charge for her services. That the services were being covered by a grant.

Commissioner Lee made a **MOTION** that the County decline paying the \$10,000 invoice submitted by the Mid-East Commission. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Chair Wesson emphasized that if any resiliency funding was received from the grant, Bertie County would not be apart of that disbursement.

2020 Fall/Winter Surplus Property Auction – overall logistics, Legal support, and resolutions for real and personal property

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** for the Board to declare the enclosed items of real and personal property as surplus to be sold at public auction on Saturday, November 14, 2020 by electronic means per the recommendation of the County Manager. Commissioner Atkins **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** that the Board allow the County Attorney and County Administration to move forward with the completion of the two (2) needed resolutions, as well as the required advertising to remain in compliance with NC General Statutes. Vice Chair Lee **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The real and personal property declared surplus are as follows:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		
Ambulance	Vin#	Notes
2002 F-450	1FDXF46F72EA28900	Main belt broken on motor, electrical and structural issues in the medical box / 7.3
2006 E-350	1FDS534P86DA32476	EGR COOLER CRACKED, TOP END WORK NEEDED FOR THE MOTOR / 6.0
2005 E-350	1FDWE35P34HA84093	EGR COOLER CRACKED, TOP END WORK NEEDED FOR THE MOTOR / 6.0
1999 F-450	1FDXF46F3XED09017	Electrical and structural issues in the medical box / 7.3
2006 E-350	1FDS534P15HA06812	EGR COOLER CRACKED, TOP END WORK NEEDED FOR THE MOTOR / 6.0
2002 F-450	1FDXF46F42EA28899	Electrical and structural issues in the medical box / 7.3

SHERIFFS' OFFICE		
Vehicle	Vin/Serial#	Notes
1995 Ford	1FMDU34X3SUB50478	No key.
<i>Per Detective Pittman, 2-2.5 months is needed to petition the court for the following vehicles to be sold at auction.</i>		
<i>Date of auction must be scheduled before the court can be petitioned.</i>		
Renegade 50 Black Scooter	1H1THBBN00B004309	No key.
2000 Yamaha YZFR1 Motorcycle	NCMS72397	No key.
1995 Pontiac Trans Sport	1GMDU0614ST203249	No key.
1999 GMC TK	1GKEK13R4XR905061	No key.
1995 Lincoln Town Car	1LNLM82W6SY690161	No key.
1994 Ford Thunderbird	1FALP6248RH110388	No key.
1995 Ford Escort	1FASP11J8SW384942	No key.
1987 Dodge TK	1B7FD04T0HS471116	No key. Recovered from river - scrap only.
2018 Jeep 4 Door	1C4HJXDGXJW121908	Burned - scrap only.
Unidentified Vehicle	TBD by NCDMV	Burned - scrap only.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Equipment	Model #	Notes
Generator	100-0-DGDBL-U/5079A S#G870910777	100 Kilowatt Onan with Cummins Engine - 292 hours, fully enclosed.
Generator	3116 S#2SG00851	100 Kilowatt Caterpillar - 1462 hours, fully enclosed.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

TBD Pending Submission by Maintenance Superintendent, Anthony Rascoe

Sheet 1 - Page 2 of 2. See Sheet 2 for Tax Department foreclosures.

TAX OFFICE - PREVIOUSLY FORECLOSED PROPERTIES						
	Parcel	Address	Value in 2019	Value in 2020	Year in FC	
1	5846-18-7777	3012 Governors Rd	\$18,665.00	\$16,054.00		\$2,020.00
2	6910-16-3024	107 Garrett St	\$4,702.00	\$6,328.00		\$2,019.00
3	5883-56-2279	849D Governors Rd	\$5,081.00	\$7,406.00		\$2,019.00
4	6810-23-4624	532 Woodard Rd	\$64,757.00	\$14,404.00		\$2,019.00
5	6930-37-8341	411 Quebec Rd	\$1,283.00	\$1,584.00		\$2,019.00
6	6930-37-4221	403 Quebec	\$1,634.00	\$2,240.00		\$2,019.00
7	6802-42-7948	202 H Bond St	\$8,906.00	\$5,966.00		\$2,019.00
8	6859-87-1576	2533 NC 45N	\$12,562.00	\$11,194.00		\$2,019.00
9	5836-88-5393	106 Hoggard St	\$1,106.00	\$679.00		\$2,018.00
10	6719-07-9171	315B Cedar Landing Rd	\$571.00	\$7,881.00		\$2,018.00
11	5883-95-0688	723 Governors Rd	\$1,600.00	\$1,959.00		\$2,018.00
12	5883-95-0751	725 Governors Rd	\$1,600.00	\$1,959.00		\$2,018.00
13	6809-06-9555	150 Helena Rd	\$7,140.00	\$7,427.00		\$2,018.00
14	6800-57-5311	104 N Clay St	\$382.00	\$1,501.00		\$2,018.00
15	6828-09-0637	810 Meadow Rd	\$11,018.00	\$10,747.00		\$2,018.00
16	6801-38-7512	120 New Hope Rd	\$2,760.00	\$2,870.00		\$2,017.00
17	5829-50-5296	413B Front St	\$2,103.00	\$3,159.00		\$2,017.00
18	6810-23-8257	542 Woodard Rd	\$7,174.00	\$9,473.00		\$2,011.00

Alternative suggestions for the 2020 Employee Appreciation Luncheon, yearly Service Awards

The Board came to a consensus that the traditional luncheon was not a possibility, so alternative suggestions were needed.

County Manager Vaughan gave the floor to the Clerk to the Board, Sarah Tinkham. She discussed some alternative suggestions for an employee appreciation event that would meet COVID-19 standards. These options included a food truck meal in conjunction with the afternoon off for staff.

Facebook spotlights on employees and video presentations were also suggested to honor Service Year milestones.

Commissioner Lee suggested that the Board host staff at their December meeting to recognize them for their achievements as well.

Census update by County CENSUS Liaison, Traci White, Planning & Inspections Director

Planning & Inspections Director, Traci White, was unable to attend tonight's presentation, but she would submit a written report to the Board tomorrow via email.

Commissioners' Reports (E)

Commissioner Trent

Commissioner Trent spoke about COVID-19 cases at Bertie Correctional, as well as Bertie-Martin Regional Jail.

Commissioner Bazemore

Commissioner Bazemore asked if additional audio apparatus could be used during meetings so that the Board comes through loud and clear over Zoom. She also suggested the County place an ad in the newspaper thanking all of those who have donated to the Bertie County Morning Road Tornado Relief Fund.

Vice Chair Lee

Vice Chair Lee noted that construction on the new Tri-County Airport Terminal is about four (4) weeks behind. All furniture and pricing have been completed, and she noted that sponsorships for this initiative are available.

Commissioner Atkins

Commissioner Atkins gave no remarks at this time.

Chair Wesson

Chair Wesson took this opportunity to thank County staff, and all involved in storm recovery efforts. He also noted that new legislation had been enacted for public schools in six (6) counties, including Bertie, that can assist with delivering meals to students throughout the County. He also noted that the SECU teacher housing initiative is gaining speed again with help from Bertie's state representatives. Lastly, he discussed forthcoming donations from large employers in the area for the Relief Fund.

County Manager's Reports (F)

County Manager Vaughan noted that the joint Cooperative Extension and Library facility opening has been delayed due to COVID-19.

He noted that Robin Payne, TGOW Project Consultant, was searching for new grants for the TGOW project.

He also noted that he attended a virtual meeting with the Mid-East Commission where the former Bertie County NC Works Center was mentioned. He noted he would follow up about an alternative location to open the Center once again. Chair Wesson noted that the Bertie-MCC Campus has offered to possibly house the Center on part time basis.

Early voting begins October 15th and end October 31st.

A joint meeting will be held with Martin and Chowan County on September 29th at 7:00 PM at the Cashie Convention Center.

He also thanked the Board for allowing offices to close early on Friday so staff could have extra time off over the holiday weekend.

County Attorney's Reports (G)

County Attorney Smith gave no remarks at this time.

Public Comments Continued

Since no additional public comments had been received, this public comment section was closed.

CLOSED SESSION

Vice Chair Lee 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 Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously after the roll call vote.

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

OPEN SESSION

Chair Wesson noted to the public members back from the Zoom Waiting Room that no action was needed, and that a motion was being accepted to adjourn.

ADJOURN

Vice Chair Lee made a **MOTION** to **ADJOURN** the meeting at approximately 9:00 PM. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.