

**BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
October 18, 2021 Commissioner’s Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners held its regular meeting on Monday, October 18, 2021 inside the Commissioners Room, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. Because of 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 Ronald “Ron” Roberson, District V John Trent, District IV
Staff Present:	County Manager Juan Vaughan, II Assistant County Manager David Scarborough County Attorney Lloyd Smith Finance Director William Roberson
Staff Present (Zoom):	Clerk to the Board LaShonda Cartwright

Call to Order

Chairwoman Lee called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Wesson.

Public Comments (3-minute limit per speaker)

There were no public comments.

(A)
***** REPORTS & APPOINTMENTS *****

- (1) Presentation of 2021 NC Cooperative Extension County Partnership Award – Presented by Bertie County Extension Director Billy Barrow and Northeast District Director Art Bradley
- (2) Presentation of Youth Program Graduate – 4-H Extension Agent Guy Holley recognized Joshua Pockpot as a recent graduate of the youth program.
- (3) Reports from Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea:

- a. Request for Approval of Late Application for Property Tax Exemption
Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to approve the late application. Commissioner Roberson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.
- b. Request for Relief of Motor Vehicle Collection
Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to relieve the Tax Collector’s Office of the charge of collecting these taxes and that they be written off as uncollectible. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

- (4) Update on EMS Staffing Shortages by Emergency Management Director Mitch Cooper

After an explanation of the work schedule of his staff, he shared that they are currently down one entire truck in staffing, which is resulting in more overtime of staff. The overtime being accrued by his staff is negatively impacting overall budget of department. If they maintain this level of overtime, the impact will be a deficit of \$300,000 in their budget projections. This is a nationwide issue, but he is hoping to address the deficit here in Bertie County by addressing retention. He will be taking administrative staff out of the office and assigning them to trucks to relieve some of the personnel issues. Commissioner Wesson expressed concern that taking the Director and his administrative staff out of the office will impact normal operations of the Department.

Consensus by the Board to have the County Administration look into legality and authority of the County to address retention using bonuses and other incentives.

Board Appointments

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to appoint Julie Mickelson and Randy Cherry to the Workforce Development Board. Commissioner Roberson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to approve items (1) 4-7-2021 Work Session Minutes and (2) Register of Deeds Fee Report – September 2021. Commissioner Roberson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to approve ABC Funds Report for FY 2020-2021 prepared by Trillium Health Resources. Commissioner Roberson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to approve the Resolution Establishing a HOME Program Housing Consortium. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

Other Items

1. Discussion of Rotation for Chair & Vice Chair of Board of Commissioners

After discussion by the Commissioners, the consensus of the Board is to keep the appointment of Chair and Vice-chair as it currently stands.

2. Road Safety & Maintenance Ordinance Update by Attorney Lloyd Smith

Attorney Lloyd Smith noted that the judgement on this property will be entered in December. Consensus by Board was to wait until the December session. Second property has been sold. The letter is being prepared to serve to the owner regarding violating the law by not fixing the road, and after discussion the Board voted to notify the property owner that they have 45 days to fix the road or that the County will fix the road and charge the owner. Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to follow the order as approved, **MOTION PASSED 5-0.**

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Roberson – Asked for a silent moment in respect of the death of Colin Powell.

Commissioner Wesson – Informed public about the ability to watch the legislative process in real time regarding redistricting. Carolina Rebuilders Ministry has added Bertie County to its service district, to rebuild and repair homes of seniors and low-income people in Bertie County.

Commissioner Lee – Officially voted onto the Board of Directors of the National Association of County Commissioners.

Commissioner Trent – No report.

Commissioner Atkins – No report.

County Manager's Reports

None.

County Attorney's Reports

None

Public Comments Reports

None

Commissioner Roberson made **MOTION** to go into closed session. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED**. **MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**

Closed Session

Pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. Pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, 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

Return to Open Session

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to Adjourn. Commissioner Roberson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. **MOTION APPROVED 5-0.**