

**BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS  
November 1, 2021 Commissioner’s Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners held its regular meeting on Monday, November 1, 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 Tammy A. Lee, District III Ronald “Ron” Roberson, District V John Trent, District IV
Absent:	Greg Atkins, District II
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 was led by Reverend Williams. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairwoman Lee.

**Public Comments (3-minute limit per speaker)**

Debra Taylor, 2029 Charles Taylor Road in Aulander, expressing concerns regarding the EMS staffing shortage. Bertie County EMS acts with professionalism, providing a level of care that all would expect. While Bertie County has limited resources, the most basic expectation of citizens and the most fundamental role of government is to protect public safety. She thanked all emergency workers, not only EMS but fire and sheriff employees as well. She asked that Bertie County Commissioners work to ensure our public safety.

Pastor Williams, 102 N. Middle Street, Windsor, made a statement about convenience centers, both the one on Highway 17N and the one located at 13/17. These sites are constantly full and cause inconvenience to elderly citizens who cannot empty their trash and have to make several trips to do so. It is also not fair as a taxpayer. It is also an eyesore to those driving past these sites. This needs to be addressed.

## Reports & Appointments

- (1) Update on Project Closeout of Library & NC Cooperative Extension Facility by Amber Idol, MHAWorks

Amber Idol joined via ZOOM, shared a screen with a presentation regarding the update of the Library and Cooperative Extension facility. Most of the work has been completed off of the punch list developed during walk-through in April.

- (2) Board of Elections Update by Director Sheila Holloman

Director Holloman joined via ZOOM. The eight towns in Bertie County will be voting on mayoral and commissioner candidates on Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, and encouraged the citizens of these towns to go to their polling sites to participate. COVID protective measures will be thoroughly enforced throughout the election day. December 6-17<sup>th</sup> is the filing dates for Bertie County Sheriff, Clerk of Court and three (3) Commissioner seats (Districts 2,3 and 5).

- (3) County Branding & TGOW Phase I Updates by Project Consultant Robin Payne

TGOW received a grant from the North Carolina Water Resources Development Grant \$197,226 to complete Phase 1 of the TGOW project, and North Carolina Water Resources Development Group we received \$151,198 for the Shoreline Stabilization.

Destination by Design provided a proposal for Branding in the amount of \$27,000, which is covered by grant funding. She requested approval to move forward with working with the County Manager to develop a contract with them. Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to approve the County Manager negotiating a contract with Destination by Design. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 4-0 vote.

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

They remain 8 positions short, but they have had had a paramedic move over from non-emergency transport, and one part-time position come on full-time, but they are still one truck short of being fully staffed.

- (5) Financial Overview of 1st Quarter of FY 2021-2022 by Finance Director William Roberson

Finance Director Roberson provided a handout explaining the expenditures and revenues for the first quarter of FY22. Revenues are slightly higher in FY22 at this point than they were in FY21, and expenditures are in line with previous fiscal year. Chairwoman Lee suggested this report be placed on the work session to discuss further. Commissioner Wesson thanked Director Roberson for this report, believes this will be beneficial to the Commissioners in regards to budgeting and making fiscal decisions.

## Board Appointments

\*\* the conversation here was garbled. Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to move forward. Commissioner Roberson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 4-0 vote.

## Consent Agenda

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to approve items (1) Tax Release Journal - 2021. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 4-0 vote.

The Destination Branding & Identity Design Contract was approved earlier in the meeting.

Commissioner Wesson, after confirming that approximately \$40,000 remains in the tornado relief fund, made a statement that the Commissioners are going to have to soon make hard decisions regarding those seven trailers with families in them. He is requesting that the Commissioners consider looking at contributing some funds at some point to the property owners of the trailer park that was devastated, to help them with their substantial loss. No motion was made, but just asked for consideration at some point.

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to approve the Budget Amendments. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 4-0 vote.

### Other Items

1. Discussion of Flexibility with County's Three Percent Contribution to Employees' 401K

After discussion by the Commissioners,

2. Request to Transfer Grant from Bertie County to Partners for Bertie County Public Schools for Teacher Housing Project.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the Request to Transfer Grant from Bertie County to Partners for Bertie County Public Schools for Teacher Housing Project. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 4-0 vote.

3. Finalize Plans for 2021 Employee Appreciation Week, November 27 – December 3, 2021

County Manager Vaughan shared that Bertie County would provide gift cards for local eateries in Bertie County rather than having the employee banquet due to COVID restrictions. There will be a half-day on the day of the Christmas Parade, Spirit Week, Employee Recognition of time served, and other appreciation events throughout the week.

4. Confirm Final Work Session for 2021

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. was set as the final work session date.

### Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Roberson – Commissioner Roberson's comments were inaudible.

Commissioner Wesson – Blue Jay Recreation Center set for Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 p.m. Concerning the Convenience Centers, citizens are still not pleased with the services being provided.

Commissioner Lee – 9:00 a.m. on November 16<sup>th</sup>, groundbreaking of Town of Windsor Fire Training Center.

Commissioner Trent – No report.

### County Manager's Reports

Human Resources and Risk Management Director Courtney Ward and Finance Director William Roberson met with the Association Risk Management Pool regarding Bertie County insurance coverage. After the review provided Bertie County received a 2.5 out of 3.0 credit for insurance pool reduction. Kudos to our Finance Director and entire staff for accomplishing this.

**County Attorney's Reports**

None

**Public Comments Reports**

None

Commissioner Roberson made **MOTION** to go into closed session. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED**. **MOTION APPROVED** 4-0.

**Closed Session**

Pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(5) To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract. 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**

Chair Lee noted upon return to open session that they provided the County Manager with his annual evaluation, and that they would like to say publicly that they are pleased with what he has accomplished, and they have given him some goals to achieve in the next year.

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to Recess until November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. **MOTION APPROVED** 4-0.