

**BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
Reconvening of Recessed Meeting (November 1, 2021)
November 10, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners reconvened its regular meeting of Monday, November 1, 2021 on today, November 10, 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 Jonathan Huddleston (<i>arrived for closed session</i>) Finance Director William Roberson
Staff Present (Zoom):	Clerk to the Board LaShonda Cartwright

Call to Order

Chairwoman Lee called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairwoman Lee.

Public Comments (3-minute limit per speaker)

There were no public comments.

(1) EMS staffing shortage

County Manager provided a handout addressing the bottom line of the increases the Emergency Management Director has proposed, for the remainder of FY21 it would require an increase of \$223,449, or an impact of \$335,174 for a full year. These salary increases would place the employees in the middle of the pay for EMS workers in surrounding counties. After the Commissioners discussed a number of ways to address funding this request both for the remainder of this fiscal year as well as in future years,

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to freeze the currently vacant Transportation Coordinator position to provide the funding necessary to support this proposal. The **MOTION** passed 5-0. Commissioner Trent then made the **MOTION** to increase minimum hiring range and bring other EMS staffing to a level that will prevent salary compression. Commissioner Roberson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

- (2) Financial Overview – County Manager Vaughan and Finance Director William Roberson
Finance Director Roberson went through the monthly financial report created for the Commissioners to explain the data provided, and answered questions asked by the Commissioners. The Commissioners were satisfied with the information provided and will look forward to receiving this information on a monthly basis.
- (3) Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to approve the resolution, with the changing of the wording in second paragraph from Sheriff’s Department to Sheriff’s Office, setting the salary of the new sheriff to be elected in the 2022 election to be the minimum salary of Grade 78 of the Bertie County Sheriff’s Salary Schedule, of which the salary is \$55,054 (minimum) - \$79,278 (maximum), with the understanding that once a new sheriff is elected and takes office, the Board of Commissioners has the authority to increase the salary should they deem it warranted. Commissioner Roberson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.
- (4) Closed session (Consulting with attorney to discuss legalities concerning sheriff’s pay, other closed session matters)

Commissioner Trent made **MOTION** to go into closed session. Commissioner Wesson **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

Chairwoman Lee stated for the record that there was a discussion in closed session about the \$2,000,000 that was discussed in open session earlier, and she wanted to clearly explain that those funds were reimbursements received from Golden Leaf Foundation and other entities that went back into Bertie County Budget.

Commissioner Atkins made the **MOTION** to Adjourn. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. **MOTION APPROVED** 5-0.