

**BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS  
December 6, 2021 Commissioner’s Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners held its regular meeting on Monday, December 6, 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 John Trent, District IV Ronald “Ron” Roberson, District V
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 Roberson.

**Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

The floor was turned over to County Manager Juan E. Vaughan, II to preside over the election of the new Chairman and Vice-Chair of the Bertie County Commissioners.

Commissioner Ron Wesson **nominated** Commissioner John Trent to be Chair of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. The nomination was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Tammy Lee. No further nominations were offered. A poll vote of all commissioners was taken by County Manager Vaughan.

Ronald “Ron” Wesson, District I	- Yes
Greg Atkins, District II	- Yes
Tammy A. Lee, District III	- Yes
John Trent, District IV	- Yes
Ronald “Ron” Roberson, District V	- Yes

Commissioner John Trent then **nominated** Commissioner Ron Wesson to be Vice-chair of the Bertie County Board of Commissioners. The nomination was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Tammy Lee. No further nominations were offered. Commissioner Roberson moved to close the nominations.

A poll vote of all commissioners was taken by County Manager Vaughan.

Ronald “Ron” Wesson, District I	- Yes
Greg Atkins, District II	- Yes
Tammy A. Lee, District III	- Yes
John Trent, District IV	- Yes
Ronald “Ron” Roberson, District V	- Yes

A 5-minute recess was called in order to allow the commissioners an opportunity to reorganize their seating.

Chairman Trent brought the meeting back to order.

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

A member of the public discussed the contribution of Arts to the County in regards to economic growth, educational growth and improving the overall quality of life to Bertie County citizens.

### **Reports & Appointments**

- (1) Emergency Medical Services and Non-Emergency Transport Financial Update by Dave Pickren, Colleton Software. Mr. Pickren provided handouts to further demonstrate EMS billing and revenue generation over the past 12 months, answered questions from the Commissioners regarding the billing process, and provided update on new Medicaid changes that will be taking place.
- (2) Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Financial Summary by Finance Director William Roberson. Finance Director Roberson provided monthly report of the fiscal year through October. He brought to the Commissioner’s attention several variances, but in general the County expenditures and revenues are tracking as expected.

### **Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve items (1) Tax Release Journal – September 2021 and (2) Tax Release Journal - October 2021. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Lee made the **MOTION** to approve the (3) Register of Deeds Fees Report – October 2021 and (4) Register of Deeds Fees Report – November 2021. Commissioner Atkins **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to approve the (5) Bonds held for Bertie County Officials. Commissioner Roberson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Atkins made the **MOTION** to approve the (6) Budget Amendments. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Lee made the **MOTION** to approve the (7) Appointment of Fire Chief Harris Williams to Lewiston-Woodville Volunteer Fire Department Relief Board. Commissioner Roberson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to approve the (9) National Opioid Distributor Settlement Participation Form and (10) National Opioid Distributor Settlement Participation Form. Commissioner Lee **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

### **Other Items**

1. EMS Staffing Update & Approval of Conveyance of Trailer Campers to Haywood County

Since last meeting, EMS has hired four new full-time employees and two part-time employees. They have also had three current part-time employees increase their hours as well.

Commissioner Lee made the **MOTION** to approve the conveyance of four trailer campers to Haywood County. Commissioner Roberson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

2. DOT Petition for Road Addition of Bond Lane.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to accept the petition for the Road Addition of Bond Lane and to present this to NCDOT for their consideration. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the **MOTION**. The **MOTION PASSED** with a 5-0 vote.

Commissioner Lee made **MOTION** to go into closed session. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED**. **MOTION APPROVED** 5-0.

### **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**

Commissioner Lee made **MOTION** to go back into open session. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED**. **MOTION APPROVED** 5-0.

### **Commissioners' Reports**

Commissioner Roberson – Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Wesson – Informed Commissioners about the concern regarding the paperwork that is being required by the ARPA grant program, and how COG is looking for ways to provide relief to the counties and municipalities in dealing with this.

Commissioner Lee – Informed Commissioners about House Bill 5735 designed to provide more flexibility on the use of ARPA funds. It has passed in the Senate but still has to be approved by the House.

Commissioner Trent – Work session to be scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Atkins – None.

#### **County Manager's Reports**

None.

#### **County Attorney's Reports**

Attorney Smith updated the Commissioners on a judgement served on December 1, 2021.

#### **Public Comments Reports**

None

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