

Bertie County, North Carolina
May 22, 2025
COMMISSIONERS' WORK SESSION

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a Work Session on May 22, 2025 at 10:00AM inside the Commissioners Meeting Room, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. The following members were present or absent:

Present: Chair, Corey Ballance, Sr., District III
Vice-Chair, Lewis Hoggard, III, District I
Ronald "Ron" Roberson, District V
Vivian Saunders, District IV
Michael White, District II

Staff Present: County Manager, Juan Vaughan, II
Assistant County Manager, David Scarborough
Finance Director, Willie Mack Carawan
Clerk to the Board, Tonya Davis
Information Technology Director, Joseph Wilkes
Network Administrator, Dashawn Clark

CONVENE MEETING FROM MAY 19, 2025

Bertie County Budget Review Meeting

The meeting focused on reviewing budget line items, particularly salaries and associated costs like FICA and retirement, County Manager Vaughan explained that salary differences between the current and previous year were due to new hires and adjustments to the vacation buyback formula.

Finance Director, Willie Mack Carawan, stated that an unreliable spreadsheet that has been previously used led to incorrect budget numbers. Several discrepancies were identified in the calculations, including incorrect FICA rates and insurance costs.

The Board decided to continue working on the budget despite the imbalances, with the aim of identifying areas to cut costs and ensuring accurate figures for the next meeting.

The Board reviewed the proposed budget increases for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), primarily due to the addition of four new positions and an ambulance. The discussion also covered vehicle leasing for various departments, with concerns raised about costs and the need to explore alternative options. The Board asked County Manager Vaughan to review the current lease program with Enterprise.

The Board discussed Planning and Inspections Department, with a budget increase of \$5,000 mainly for computer replacements. The Board questioned the animal control staffing needs and considered increasing the budget for solid waste services by \$40,000. The Economic Development

budget was decreased due to the potential hiring of an Economic Development Director, though concerns were raised about ongoing projects. The Board also reviewed budgets for Cooperative Extension and the Council on Aging services, with Rebecca Stapleton providing details on meals on wheels and transportation services. Finally, the Board examined special appropriations for schools, nonprofits, and retiree insurance, with a question raised about the legality of paying for COBRA insurance for former employees.

The Board reviewed requests from Bertie County Schools, Community Colleges, Libraries, and other organizations, maintaining funding at previous levels for most items. The Board discussed the Teen Court program and its funding through JCPC, clarifying that the County acts as the fiscal agent but does not directly fund the program. The Board reviewed the proposed budget for the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail, which included requests for salary increases, and expressed a desire to see a detailed breakdown of how the funds would be allocated.

The Board also discussed potential cuts to the DSS budget and the need to clarify the actual savings from these cuts.

The Board agreed to hold a public hearing on June 9, 2025 followed by a regular Board meeting on June 16, 2025 to adopt the budget. A work session was scheduled for June 5, 2025 at 1:00PM to review any necessary changes after the public hearing.

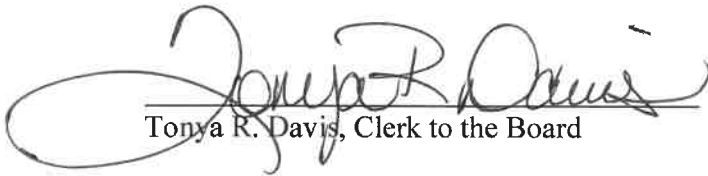
RECESS

The Board agreed to recess and reconvene on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 1:00 PM.



Chair, Corey Ballance, Sr.
Bertie County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Tonya R. Davis, Clerk to the Board