

**Windsor, North Carolina
June 9, 2025
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

The Bertie County Commissioners met in a Budget Public Hearing at 6:00 PM inside the Commissioners Room, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. This meeting was hosted partially in person and partially via Zoom (conference call). 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
County Attorney, Lloyd C. Smith, Jr.
Finance Director, Willie Mack Carawan
Clerk to the Board, Tonya Davis
Information Technology Director, Joe Wilkes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ballance called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Ballance gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHT SUMMARY

County Manager Vaughan welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the Budget Public Hearing. The County Manager stated that on May 14, 2025 he presented the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Proposed Budget to the Board that included a general fund of \$24,950,113 and special appropriations of over \$6 million.

The Board discussed the budget deficit of \$130,071 and considered options to balance it. The Board expressed concerns about the long-term sustainability of continuously dipping into the same budget pot without addressing underlying issues.

PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS

James Caddy and Jim Slye from the Forestry Service thanked the Board for giving the Forestry Service a budget of \$171,000 for FY 2025-2026 but requested an increased county share of \$211,000 for their co-op budget, which would allow them to maintain current staffing levels and purchase a new truck.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Roberson

Commissioner Roberson stated that he would be traveling to Raleigh on June 10, 2025 to attend the County Advocacy Days Conference sponsored by NCACC.

Vice-Chair Hoggard

Vice-Chair Hoggard had no report.

Commissioner White

Commissioner White had no report.

Commissioner Saunders

Commissioner Saunders reminded residents to support local summer camps by donating water and supplies for children's safety.

Chair Ballance

Chair Ballance reminded everyone of the Juneteenth Celebration that will be held in Windsor on June 19, 2025.

DISCUSSION OF PLANS FOR ADOPTION

Commissioner White asked if the Republic Services amount was correct in the proposed budget? County Manager Vaughan stated that they are still waiting to receive invoices from Republic Services to get an accurate amount.

Chair Ballance suggested to reduce the public education budget by \$165,000 to address the deficit and assist the Forestry Service.

Commissioner Roberson recommended that the County Manager and Bertie County Schools Superintendent meet to determine a feasible amount to reduce the public education budget.

Commissioner Saunders asked if the Board could ask the Bertie County Schools Superintendent what impact it would make on the school system. County Manager Vaughan stated that it would be up to the Board to make that decision.

Commissioner White stated that some things need to be addressed now to avoid going through this each year. Commissioner White said that annual leave payback is one option to examine..

Chair Ballance stated that we have to get the budget in place.

Commissioner Roberson stated that a freeze needs to be put on all open positions. County Manager Vaughan recommended not cutting any positions or implementing a hiring freeze to manage the deficit.

Chair Ballance stated that he does not want to cut any benefits from employees.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Saunders made the **MOTION** to enter into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3)(4)(6). The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to re-enter into Open Session. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Vice-Chair Hoggard. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

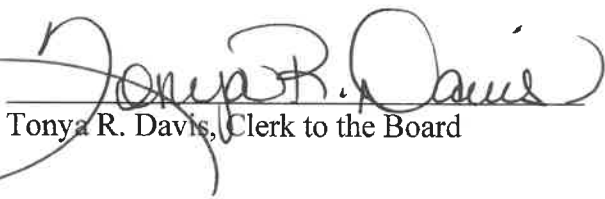
RECESS

The Board agreed to recess and reconvene on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 1:00 PM.



Chair Corey Ballance, Sr.
Bertie County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Tonya R. Davis, Clerk to the Board