

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**August 3, 2026**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

The Bertie County Commissioners met in Regular Session 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  
                                    County Attorney, Cliff Smith  
                                    Clerk to the Board, Tonya Davis  
                                    IT Director, Joe Wilkes

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Corey Ballance, Sr. called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice-Chair Hoggard gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Deborah Taylor raised concerns about weed killer damage at Bertie County water sites and requested information about public records compliance.

**APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS**

**1. Proclamation Recognizing August 2026 as Child Support Awareness Month**

Chair Ballance read the Proclamation Recognizing August 2026 as Child Support Awareness Month.

**Proclamation Recognizing August 2026 as Child Support Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, Bertie County is recognizing August as Child Support Awareness Month, and reaffirms its commitment to strengthening Bertie Counties families by providing child support services to improve the economic stability and well-being of children; and

**WHEREAS**, in State Fiscal Year 2025-26, more than \$2.1 million in child support was collected from parents of Bertie County's children, and

**WHEREAS**, there are nearly 1,020 child support orders in place, working to ensure that children receive financial support from their parents: and

**WHEREAS**, the court must order either parent to obtain and maintain medical health insurance coverage for a child if it is actually and currently available to the parent at a reasonable cost; and

**WHEREAS**, Child Support Awareness Month salutes the diligent working parents who spend time with their child and who make regular child support payments, to safeguard their children's future: and

**WHEREAS**, strengthening individuals and families promotes the safety and well-being of children, provides stability, improves the lives of children, and provides opportunities for families to be able to enhance their children's futures; and

**WHEREAS**, children who do not receive adequate financial and emotional support from their parents may experience greater difficulty in becoming healthy, happy, and productive citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, many concerned and dedicated judges, district attorneys, clerks of court, sheriffs' personnel, and child support professionals work to establish and enforce child support orders for Bertie County children, one of our county's most vital resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, the Bertie County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim August 2026, as "CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH" in Bertie County, and commend its observance to all citizens.

Adopted this 3rd day of August, 2026.

**2. Safety Awareness Updates by Human Resources & Risk Management Director Nicole Boone**

Nicole Boone, Human Resources and Risk Management Director, provided updates on safety initiatives during National Safety Month, including CPR training, slips trips and falls prevention, fire safety, and defensive driving courses, reporting a significant decrease in workers' compensation and liability claims.

**3. TGOW Updates by Project Consultant Robin Payne**

Mrs. Payne was not present at the meeting.

**4. Financial Summary by Finance Director Willie Carawan**

Finance Director Willie Carawan presented financial summaries showing the general fund revenues exceeded expenditures by over \$1 million, while the Department of Social Services fund showed expenditures exceeding revenues by \$39,270, and the water department reported expenditures exceeding revenues by \$78,386 due to meter reader issues requiring emergency purchases.

The Board directed County Manager Vaughan and Finance Director Willie Carawan to research the cost and procedures for obtaining a credit card machine for the Water Department to accept debit and credit card payments.

### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

No appointments

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. Approve the June 1, 2026 Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the June 1, 2026 Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

**2. Approve the June 8, 2026 Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to approve the June 8, 2026 Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Vice-Chair Hoggard. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

**3. Approve the June 8, 2026 Budget Public Hearing Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to approve the June 8, 2026 Budget Public Hearing Meeting Minutes. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

**4. Approve the June 22, 2026 Open and Closed Session Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the June 22, 2026 Open and Closed Session Meeting Minutes. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

**5. Approve the July 13, 2026 Open and Closed Session Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner White made the **MOTION** to approve the July 13, 2026 Open and Closed Session Meeting Minutes. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

### **\*\*\*OTHER ITEMS\*\*\***

### **DISCUSSION AGENDA (D)**

**1. Discuss Approval of Negotiated Offer to Purchase 306 W. Main Street, Aulander, NC**

County Manager Vaughan informed the Board that a bid of \$12,349.99 had been received for the property located at 306 W. Main Street, Aulander, NC. County Manager Vaughan asked the Board if they would accept that offer.

Commissioner Saunders made the **MOTION** to accept the offer of \$12,349.99 for the property located at 306 W. Main Street, Aulander, NC. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

**2. Discuss Approval of Resolution Reestablishing Department of Social Services Board**

Commissioner Saunders made a **MOTION** to approve the resolution to reestablish the Department of Social Services Board with appointments to be made by both the Social Services Commission and the Board of Commissioners. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Vice-Chair Hoggard. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

**BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**RESOLUTION REESTABLISHING THE BERTIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes § 153A-77, the Bertie County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution on November 19, 2025, dissolving the Bertie County Department of Social Services Board and assuming direct responsibility and control of all powers, duties, responsibilities, and activities previously vested in or conducted by the Bertie County Department of Social Services Board; and

**WHEREAS**, since November 19, 2025, the Bertie County Board of Commissioners has exercised the authority and responsibilities previously assigned to the Bertie County Department of Social Services Board in accordance with applicable provisions of North Carolina law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners has determined that it is in the best interest of Bertie County and the citizens it serves to reestablish the Bertie County Department of Social Services Board to provide governance, oversight, and consultation as authorized by North Carolina law; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina General Statutes authorize counties to establish and maintain a county social services board, with members appointed in accordance with applicable statutory provisions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners desires to restore the Bertie County Department of Social Services Board and transfer to it those powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions provided by law.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** BY THE Bertie County Board of Commissioners that:

1. The Bertie County Board of Commissioners hereby declares its intent to reestablish the Bertie County Department of Social Services Board upon completion of the appointment process required by North Carolina law.
2. The Bertie County Board of Commissioners anticipates appointing two (2) members to the Bertie County Department of Social Services Board at its regular meeting on September 8, 2026, subject to all applicable statutory requirements.
3. The Board further acknowledges that the North Carolina Social Services Commission is scheduled to appoint two (2) members to the Bertie County Department of Social Services Board on September 9, 2026, in accordance with applicable law.

4. Following the appointment of the four (4) members described above, those members shall appoint a fifth (5th) member as prescribed by North Carolina law. Upon the appointment and qualification of the fifth member, the Bertie County Department of Social Services Board shall be deemed reestablished and shall thereafter exercise the powers, duties, responsibilities, and functions prescribed by the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina.

5. Upon the reestablishment of the Bertie County Department of Social Services Board, the Bertie County Board of Commissioners shall cease exercising the powers, duties, responsibilities, and activities previously assumed pursuant to its Resolution adopted on November 19, 2025, except as otherwise provided by law, and such authority shall be transferred to the reestablished Bertie County Department of Social Services Board.

6. The County Manager, the Director of the Bertie County Department of Social Services, and the Clerk to the Board are authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to facilitate the transition to the reestablished Bertie County Department of Social Services Board, including coordinating appointments, organizing the initial meeting of the Board, and ensuring an orderly transfer of governance. All actions previously taken by the Bertie County Board of Commissioners while acting as the governing body of the Department of Social Services pursuant to the November 19, 2025 Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed, and shall remain in full force and effect.

7. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption; however, the reestablishment of the Bertie County Department of Social Services Board and the transfer of its statutory powers and responsibilities shall occur only upon the appointment and qualification of all five (5) members of the Board as provided herein and by applicable North Carolina law.

Adopted this 3rd day of August, 2026.

**3. NCACC 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, August 20-22, 2026, Durham County**

Chair Ballance reminded the Board of the upcoming 199<sup>th</sup> Annual NCACC Conference in Durham County, NC on August 20-22, 2026.

**4. Bertie County Schools Convocation, Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM and the Bertie County Schools Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the CTE Wing, Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 11:30 AM at Bertie High School**

Chair Balance reminded the Board of the Bertie County Schools Convocation that will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 9:00 AM and the Bertie County Schools Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the CTE Wing on Thursday, August 13, 2026 at 11:30 AM at Bertie High School.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

**Commissioner Roberson**

Commissioner Roberson commented on the housing challenges facing the community and expressed concerns regarding the amount of Farm Bill funding being provided to assist local farmers. He also reminded the Board of the upcoming Back-to-School event to be held at the Blue Jay's Recreation Center.

**Vice-Chair Hoggard**

Vice-Chair Hoggard inquired whether an app was available for parents to track school buses. Commissioner White stated that an app is currently in place and being utilized.

#### **Commissioner White**

Commissioner White reminded everyone of the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Bill Clough Ford on Saturday, August 8, 2026.

#### **Commissioner Saunders**

Commissioner Saunders thanked the Board and County Manager for their support during the challenges following the inmate riot at the Bertie-Martin Regional Jail. Commissioner Saunders also requested that the Board consider issuing a proclamation honoring the Bess family in memory of Lewiston Volunteer Firefighter Jamar Bess.

#### **Chair Ballance**

Chair Ballance reminded everyone of the new dentist office that has opened in Aulander, NC.

#### **COUNTY MANAGER REPORT**

County Manager Vaughan reported that he is continuing to gather information regarding Deborah Tayloe's concerns about weed killer damage at Bertie County water sites. He stated that he will provide Mrs. Tayloe with his findings upon completion.

County Manager Vaughan reminded the Board that sealed bids for the Aulander Elementary School property are due by August 12, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. All bids are to be submitted to County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston.

#### **ATTORNEY REPORT**

No report.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Dameron informed the Board of his interest in purchasing the property at 104 York Street, Windsor, NC.

Chair Ballance asked Dr. Otis Smallwood to come up and share his newly accepted award. Dr. Smallwood stated that he was recognized as the 2026 LIFT Innovator Award recipient by N.C. State University.

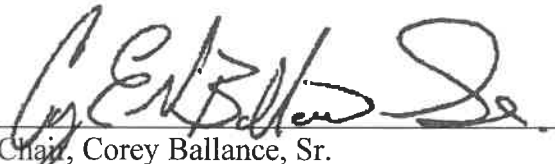
#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Commissioner White 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 Saunders. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

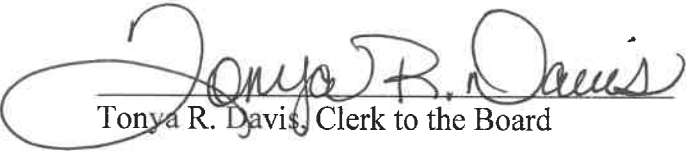
Commissioner Saunders made the **MOTION** to re-enter into open session. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Vice-Chair Hoggard. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

#### **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Saunders made the **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **5-0** vote.

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

ATTEST:

  
Tonya R. Davis, Clerk to the Board