

Windsor, North Carolina
February 3, 2014
Regular Meeting

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 10:00AM in the Commissioners Room located at 106 Dundee Street Windsor, NC. The following members were present or absent:

Present: J. Wallace Perry, Chairman
Charles L. Smith, Vice-Chairman
John Trent
Ronald "Ron" Wesson
Rick Harrell

Absent: None

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer
Clerk to the Board Sarah Seredni
Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston
Planning Developer Traci White
Nuisance Abatement Officer Barry Anderson
Information Systems Administrator Scott Pierce
Network Administrator Joe Wilkes
Finance Director William Roberson
Sheriff John Holley
Detective Sergeant Ed Pittman
Cooperative Extension Department Head Richard Rhodes

Media members present included Thadd White of the Bertie Ledger-Advance, and Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald.

Other staff members present for a portion of the meeting included: Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper, and Maintenance Director Anthony Rascoe.

Chairman Perry opened the meeting, and thanked all of those present for their attendance.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Wesson gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

APPOINTMENTS

February 2014 American Heart Month Proclamation presentation by Lisa Spry of Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS), Tiffany Wiggins of The Power of U, and Lisa Phillips of the Community Transformation Grant Project.

Lisa Spry of Albemarle Regional Health Services gave a presentation to the Board about the prevalence of Heart Disease in the County.

According to results from the Bertie County Community Health Assessments conducted in 2009-2011, Caucasian males ranked highest in amount of Heart Disease cases. African American males are the second highest group suffering from Heart Disease in the County.

Ms. Spry stated that her goal is to inform, educate, and work to prevent additional Heart Disease in the County.

Tiffany Wiggins of The Power of U also presented to the Board regarding the importance of tobacco free school campuses, and presented pictorial evidence to the Board that this policy was not being enforced at a local area school.

Ms. Wiggins also informed the Board of various campaigns that had been conducted in County schools promoting students to stay tobacco free.

Lisa Phillips of the Communities Transformation Grant (CTG) Project informed the Board of the project's initiative to increase the number of smoke free buildings in the County. She stated that Bertie County resides in Region 9 which encompasses a total of 15 counties. Region 9 also included 7 Health Departments.

Ms. Phillips showed pictures of various advertising campaigns including billboards, sandwich boards, and other items currently being used in other counties throughout the Region.

In closing, Ms. Spry, Ms. Wiggins, and Ms. Phillips requested that the Board adopt a proclamation which would deem February 2014 American Heart Month in Bertie County.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to adopt the proclamation deeming February 2014 American Heart Month in Bertie County. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The proclamation reads as follows:



A PROCLAMATION DECLARING FEBRUARY 2014 AS AMERICAN HEART MONTH IN BERTIE COUNTY

WHEREAS, February 2014 is American Heart Month; and

WHEREAS, every 39 seconds someone in the United States dies from heart disease; and

WHEREAS, in Bertie County the overall heart disease mortality rate is higher than the Regional and State rate¹; and

WHEREAS, heart disease is the number one cause of death for both men and women in the United States claiming approximately 1 million lives annually and the second leading cause of death in Bertie County; and

WHEREAS, women account for just over half of the total heart disease deaths in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, heart disease and stroke are among the most widespread and costly health problems facing the nation today, accounting for more than \$312.6 billion in health care expenditures and lost productivity annually in 2011²; and

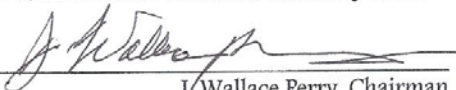
WHEREAS, heart disease has been the cause for a high rate of hospitalization among Bertie County residents, a rate significantly higher than the comparable state and regional averages³; and

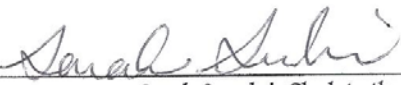
WHEREAS, smoking, high blood pressure, and high LDL cholesterol are key risk factors for heart disease; and

WHEREAS, not smoking, a healthy diet, and physical activity are the best weapons to fight heart disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, we the Bertie County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the County's support of the **month of February 2014 as American Heart Month.**

The American Heart Month presents us all with the opportunity to renew our commitment to the health and safety of all Bertie County citizens.


J. Wallace Ferry, Chairman
Bertie County Board of Commissioners


Sarah Serebni, Clerk to the Board

¹ NC State Center for Health Statistics, County Health Data Book (2013), Mortality, 2007-2011 Race-Specific and Sex-Specific Age-Adjusted Death Rates by County; <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/databook/>.

² National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention

³ Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics, County-level Data, County Health Data Books (2007-2013), Morbidity, Inpatient Hospital Utilization and Charges by Principal Diagnosis and County of Residence; <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/databook/>.

2013-2014 CSBG Anti-Poverty Work Plan presentation by Sallie Surface, Executive Director of Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA)

Sallie Surface, Executive Director of CADA, was present to request feedback from the Board regarding CADA's proposed CSBG Anti-Poverty Work Plan for FY 2014-2014.

The application discussed the reasons that CADA is in need of additional funding, and the current conditions in Bertie County regarding unemployment, literacy, limited funding, and lack of various local resources.

A copy of the application that CADA intends to submit was intended to be included in a full packet to the Board, but due to inclement weather, a full packet was not able to be completed prior to this meeting.

The Board requested that the Clerk to the Board, Sarah Seredni, provide electronic copies of the application document to the Board as soon as possible.

At that time, the Board would complete the required affidavit in order for CADA to submit their application to the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).

Planning Department Overview presentation by Planning Director Traci White and Nuisance Abatement Officer Barry Anderson

The Board heard a presentation from Planning Director Traci White and Nuisance Abatement Officer Barry Anderson regarding the current standings of various Planning Department sectors.

Ms. White first presented a report detailing the amount of permits and inspections that had been completed between January and December of 2013.

The report showed that there had been a total of 745 permits issued to individuals in the County during the year of 2013. It also depicted that there had been a total of 920 inspections completed in the County during the same time period.

The permit and completed inspection types included: manufactured homes, Home Owners Recovery Fund, plumbing, mechanical (HVAC), electrical, energy (insulation), fire, and gas.

Nuisance Abatement Officer Barry Anderson then presented a report to the Board regarding litter control and enforcement, as well as junkyard & motor vehicle control, and enforcement.

Mr. Anderson's report stated that in 2013, 120 State inmates collected a total of 2,809 bags of litter.

The Board inquired about other potential opportunities for volunteers, as well as other programs, that could assist with additional litter pick up services.

Commissioner Harrell stated that Perdue does an annual litter pick up event in the area and requested that results from those events to be included in future reports.

Other Board members suggested that Mr. Anderson be in contact with local churches and other organizations that could also be of assistance with this initiative.

In regards to junkyard & motor vehicle control, Mr. Andersons' report stated that there was a total of 18 warning letters sent to County residents regarding non-compliance with the current ordinance. As of the reports creation, 16 of those 18 individuals have become compliant with the ordinance.

Mr. Anderson also presented photographs depicting the type of damage that is inflicted in regards to litter and junkyard & motor vehicle control.

Ms. White then updated the Board regarding the Manufactured Home Park Ordinance, and stated that the agreement was ready for posting in preparation for the approval process.

Ms. White also mentioned a project at Seymour Air Force Base joint land use study and that she would be looking into the project for further information that could be presented to the Board at a later date.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Board appointments for the Economic Development Commission Board were tabled until a later meeting. Due to inclement weather, the Clerk to the Board Sarah Sereдни was unable to provide a full agenda to the Board in preparation for this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Due to inclement weather, there were no minutes ready for approval at this meeting.

County Manager Sauer recommended that the Board approve an amendment to the contract between the County and Waste Industries, LLC to extend the life of the County convenience sites for a period of 12 months ending on June 30, 2015.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve an amendment to the contract between the County and Waste Industries, LLC to extend the life of the County convenience sites for a period of 12 months ending on June 30, 2015. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Due to inclement weather, the Board did not have the opportunity to read the November 2013 Tax Department Error Ledger. This matter was tabled until the next meeting.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Dana Snow with the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald – upcoming Cross Road edition, seeking the County’s participation and advertising

Dana Snow of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald presented the Board with an example of an advertisement that was once used by Bertie County in the Cross Road edition of the paper in years past.

Commissioner Wesson stated that this was a good opportunity for exposure, and inquired about financing this advertisement through Economic Development as it fits in well with that department’s goals.

Ms. Snow discussed the current pricing information with the Board and stated that there would be a cost per issue and that there would be a total of 4 issues released in the month of February. She recommended that the Board consider placing their advertisement in the last issues as that is typically the most popular edition.

The Board recommended that County Sauer consult with Economic Development Director, Steve Biggs, to see what size of advertisement to be included if any funding is available in either Advertising budget.

Briefing from Sheriff Holley regarding needs for enhanced patrol and investigation activity, seeking Board’s support and possible funding

Sheriff John Holley came before the Board to discuss the current string of break-ins in the western part of the County.

Mr. Holley stated that there had been a total of 37 break-ins resulting in approximately \$57,000 worth of stolen items, since November 9, 2013.

Stolen items include jewelry, firearms, flat screen televisions, gaming systems, cash, and food items.

Sheriff Holley stated that most of the break-ins have occurred in broad daylight, and that they have not currently solved any of the cases, but they are investigating possible arrests.

Sheriff Holley also stated that there is deputy in that area on a daily basis, and that just because they are not always seen, doesn’t mean they are not patrolling the area. He continued to say that if a deputy is in the area, but then dispatched elsewhere, there is not much the deputy can do but to respond to the other call.

Commissioner Trent inquired about a comment that was made to one of his constituents by a deputy after her home had been burglarized. The deputy allegedly stated that, “we [the Sheriff’s Department] know who is doing this, but there is nothing we can do about it.”

Commissioner Trent stated that those comments are not a good form of public relations, and Sheriff Holley agreed.

Sheriff Holley stated that if any complaints are received by Commissioners that they should be forwarded to him as soon as possible.

The Board discussed the current amount of deputies currently employed, and if there is still a vacant position in the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Holley stated that they currently had 27 deputies and that there was a current vacancy in his department, but that the lapsed salary that would be used to pay the deputy had been spent on an unemployment claim.

Commissioner Wesson stated that he understood why that money needed to be spent, but recommended that future budgets should include a percentage of unemployment within an employee's salary.

Sheriff Holley requested that the Board grant him the funding needed to place 2 deputies in the western part of the County (Roxobel, Kelford, Lewiston, Aulander areas) for a period of 2 months to investigate the series of break-in's.

The Board stated that the short term was important, but that citizens deserve long term solutions to this problem as the Board does hear similar comments from citizens in that area on a regular basis.

Commissioner Harrell made a **MOTION** for the Board to provide the necessary funding to Sheriff Holley in order to place 2 deputies in the area for a period of 2 months and upon completion, there will be another opportunity to seek a long term solution. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Medical Examiner Vacancy

Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper informed the Board that current Medical Examiner, Ricky White, will be resigning effective March 1, 2014.

Mr. Cooper also stated that he had been working with the County Attorney to find a course of action for the appointment of a replacement.

Assistant County Attorney Huddleston advised the Board that according to N.C.G.S. § 130A-382, the State's Chief Medical Examiner would need to appoint a new Medical Examiner to the County.

The Board inquired as to what extent of training was needed to be deemed a qualified Medical Examiner.

Current Medical Examiner Ricky White stated that you would need to take a State approved, 2-day course.

Retreat discussion and follow-up

County Manager Sauer provided the media with a summary of the Board's Planning Retreat that occurred at the Roanoke Cashie River Center on Thursday, January 16th, and Friday, January 17th.

Mr. Sauer publicly announced that the County would be advancing their current EMS system, and that the Board also approved a 26 pay period cycle. Additionally, Mr. Sauer announced that the County would pursue non-emergency transport services within the County.

Mr. Sauer also announced the extension of the current Waste Industries contract for the convenience sites, the extension of the child support enforcement contract with Young Williams, and the further discussion of the Manufactured Home Park Ordinance.

Lastly, Mr. Sauer inquired if the Board was still interested in holding all of their meetings in the Commissioners Room in Windsor, and therefore suspending the Community Meetings until a later date.

The Board was still in consensus, and stated that they would like to resume their evening Community Meetings in May of 2014.

Budget amendments (engineering agreement and legal fees)

County Manager Sauer informed the Board that as of this year to date, the County has spent a total of \$58,000 on legal fees.

Mr. Sauer estimated that an additional \$69,000 will be needed to cover the rest of the County's legal through the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Sauer recommended that the Board be proactive about these costs and that he would be working with Finance Director William Roberson on a budget amendment that could cover the legal fees, as well as the engineering contract for a water study by Green Engineering.

The cost of the study would also be divided among the 4 water districts in the County.

Mr. Sauer stated that he would present a budget amendment to the Board at the next meeting.

Project update – Cooperative Extension progress report

County Manager Sauer introduced Cooperative Extension Department Head Richard Rhodes to update the Board on the current state of the Old Elections Building, and the future home of the Cooperative Extension office.

Mr. Rhodes stated that the building was almost completed, but that their main setback has been technology and telephone related.

County Manager Sauer informed the Board that the main factor is whether or not the new offices will be able to connect to the main County building's servers, internet, email, T1, and fiber optic network.

Commissioner Trent posed questions to the building's project manager, Anthony Rascoe, and the Board discussed what they may be able to do to get the building ready for move in.

County Manager Sauer requested that the Board agree to move additional funding over from the general fund to cover the rest of the costs involved in the building's completion.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** for additional funding to be moved from the general fund to allow the Old Election building to be completed and wired appropriately for the Cooperative Extension office to be properly connected to all County technology systems. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Review and consider modifications to Sunenergy1 solar project ground lease as presented by the County Attorney

Assistant County Attorney Huddleston informed the Board that Sunenergy1, LLC has assigned its right to enter into the ground lease to Windsor Cooper Hill Solar, LLC, which has as its sole member Duke Energy Renewables NC Solar, LLC, which has as one of its members Duke Energy Corporation. The Commissioners and Mr. Huddleston discussed the relationship between these entities.

Mr. Huddleston stated that Duke's attorney wants to fill in some blanks on the Ground Lease that had been attached as an exhibit to the Option, such as the effective date of the lease and the legal description for the site. Duke's attorney also wants to add a paragraph to the lease that addresses what the Tenant's rights and responsibilities would be in the event that Weyerhaeuser Company exercises its mineral rights. The Commissioners and Mr. Huddleston discussed the proposed language.

COMMISSISONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner Wesson informed the Board of his involvement with a fully funded State program called "Early Learning Challenge, Race to the Top: the Transformation Zone."

Mr. Wesson stated that the program is fully funded to operate in Bertie County via the Albemarle Regional Health System (ARHS), and that its goal is to improve the quality of life for all children of the County. The funding is filtered from the State through Smart Start.

Mr. Wesson stated that it is a great program and that the County should be sure that the funding is used in the right places.

Mr. Wesson also informed the Board the he is a member of Windsor Development Fund. He stated that the group is in the process of approving a lease ownership option that would give a company the opportunity to open, and run, an indoor shooting facility. The building desired building is located on N. King St. in Windsor near the bridge beside the Hess gas station.

Commissioner Wesson explained that the company was looking to spend \$175,000 on improvements for the building including sound proof walls. He stated that the County may soon have the opportunity to offer the company a 3 year lease ownership option depending on the success of the venture.

Commissioner Harrell had no report at this time.

Chairman Perry and Vice Chairman Smith had no reports at this time.

Commissioner Trent requested that the Board receive an update regarding tax collections. He also stated that he had received an update from Green Engineering regarding the water pipes in Scotch Hall, and requested that Green Engineering be present again to update the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

Mayor Dayle Joyner Vaughan of Lewiston thanked the Board for their decision to fund 2 additional deputies to investigate the current string of home invasion in the western part of the County.

Chairman Perry interjected to hold off on additional public comments until after the County Manager's report.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

County Manager Sauer updated the Board regarding the on-site Black Rock water line meeting. The original meeting was scheduled to take place on Friday, January 31st. Due to weather conditions, the meeting was rescheduled for Monday, February 10th, 2014 @ 8:00am. County Manager Sauer encouraged any interested Board members to attend.

Mr. Sauer also introduced Andrew Harris of Hite & Associates to update the Board on the new high school construction.

Mr. Harris stated that after meeting with the Superintendent White that the School Board would like to request additional funding of \$15,078.18 be moved from the contingency fund to cover the costs of purchasing and installing new wiring in the building.

The balance in the contingency fund is currently \$143,000.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** for additional funding of \$15,078.18 to be moved from the contingency fund to cover the purchasing and installation of new wiring in the new high school. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The contingency funds for Bertie High School as of 1/6/14 read as follows:

2-3-14

Contingency Funds Bertie High School

Contingency Funds for Bertie High School as of 1/6/14

Original Amount in Commissioners' Budget		\$300,000.00
1 st Change Order	-110,550.90	
2 nd Change Order	-3303.20	
<u>3rd Change Order</u>	<u>+6922.97</u>	
SubTotal	-106,931.13	
Transfer on 11/4/13	-50,000.00 for furniture	
Sub Total	-156,931.13	
Balance in Contingency		\$143,068.87

These funds do not include any DOT reimbursement (projected at \$50,000) nor any E-rate reimbursement (projected at \$150,000).

4 th Change order	Total Cost: \$15,078.18
Wire additional computer lab room 231	\$4,133.18 (Power Outlets)

Data \$10,945.00 includes a 48-port switch
@ 5,900.00

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

Ricky White approached the Board to inform them that his decision to leave his post as Medical Examiner for the County is for health issues, and has nothing to do with his involvement in White Oak Transport.

Nick Shook of White Oak Transport posed a question to the Board regarding the purpose to the “Early Learning Challenge, Race to the Top: the Transformation Zone,” and Commissioners Wesson’s involvement with the program

Commissioner Wesson and CADA Executive Director Sallie P. Surface answered his questions as needed.

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORTS

Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston had no further remarks at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

There were no Public Comments in this section.

ADJOURN

Chairman Perry adjourned at 1:13pm.

J. Wallace Perry, Chairman

Sarah Seredni, Clerk to the Board