

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**March 17, 2014**  
**Regular Meeting**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for their regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00PM 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  
Ronald "Ron" Wesson  
Rick Harrell

Absent: John Trent

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer  
Clerk to the Board Sarah Seredni  
County Attorney Lloyd Smith  
Network Administrator Joe Wilkes  
Finance Director William Roberson  
Nuisance Abatement Officer Barry Anderson  
Planning Director Traci White

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: Sheriff John Holley and Department of Social Services Director Linda Speller.

Chairman Perry opened the meeting and thanked all of those present for their attendance and interest in their local government.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Reverend Vonner Horton gave the Invocation.

Chairman Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Garry Terry, Chairman of the Bertie County Republican Party, approached the Board with concerns about a recent news article entailing the Board's comments in response to a recent Hertford County resident being appointed to the Roanoke Chowan Community College's (RCCC) Board of Trustees.

Mr. Terry stated that the article was meant to smear the Republican Party and that bringing politics into education was not in the best interests of the students enrolled at RCCC.

In response, Commissioner Wesson stated that according to the President of RCCC, Dr. Michael Elam, the recommended individual that was submitted to the RCCC Board of Trustees by the Bertie County Board of Commissioners was denied the appointment, per Governor Pat McCrory's office, due to political party affiliation.

Mr. Terry replied by stating that he would not believe that information unless it were to be in writing and until then, the information is only "hearsay."

Commissioner Harrell reiterated that it was important to have representation from Bertie County on the RCCC Board of Trustees even if it meant recommending someone based on political affiliation.

Chairman Perry requested that Mr. Terry contact the appropriate individuals to get to the bottom of the debate.

There were no additional Public Comments in this section.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Public Hearing to discuss amendments to the 2011 CDBG Scattered Site Housing (SSH) program and the 2011 CDBG Hook-Up (HU) program**

Mike Barnette of McDavid & Associates approached the Board with a description of a needed program amendment to the SSH program.

Mr. Barnette stated that there is 1 additional house located in Aulander that needs to be added to the program, but that would require a transfer of funds in the amount of \$30,000.

The funds would need to be moved from the L-1 project to the C-1 project in order to make sufficient funds available to complete the replacement home.

Chairman Perry opened the Public Hearing to comments regarding the program amendment.

There were no comments at this time. The Board conducted the next hearing.

Mr. Barnette stated that a program amendment was needed in regards to the 2011 CDBG Infrastructure Hook Up Program.

Mr. Barnette stated that according to Program Management requirements, they have secured 16 additional applicants for Phase 2. In order to add these 16 additional applicants to the program, the County must submit a Program Amendment request to the State Division of Community Assistance.

Chairman Perry opened the floor to Public Comments regarding the Hook Up program.

There were no Public Comments at this time.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to move the amount of \$30,000 from the L-1 project to the C-1 project as needed for the SSH program, and to move forward with the 16 additional applicants to the 2011 CDBG Infrastructure Hook Up program as requested. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**Public Hearing to discuss the intention of the County to apply for FY2013 CDBG funding under the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act**

Rodney Tart of Green Engineering approached the Board regarding an application for FY2013 CDBG Funding under the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act.

The grant application is being submitted on behalf of Bertie County because the County has the need and intention to construct a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to manage water loss, and to monitor water system operations.

Mr. Tart stated that this Public Hearing was the first of two that are required to be eligible for the grant.

County Manager Sauer interjected by saying the next Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2014.

Mr. Tart stated that more detailed information and cost break downs would be provided at the next Public Hearing.

Commissioner Wesson clarified by saying that neither program (either McDavid & Associates or Green Engineering) is requesting funds from Bertie County, and that all mentioned amounts are being provided by their respective grants.

There were no Public Comments at this time.

Chairman Perry ended the Public Hearing.

**Pathway to Independence – program overview and DRC office space request from Reverend Vonner Horton**

Reverend Vonner Horton introduced the Board to the Pathway to Independence program. The program is designed to assist low-moderate income women in becoming self sufficient.

The program is designed to offer assistance with educational and occupational opportunities, as well as life guidance.

Commissioner Wesson suggested that the Mid-East Commission's new Grant writing software program may be of benefit for this program.

Rev. Horton also requested to occupy office space in the newly re-opened DRC building as a hub for the Pathway to Independence program.

The Board received information in their packet as it related to that request.

Commissioner Harrell stated that he was familiar with the program, and that Bertie County was a great place for it.

The Board reached consensus about a lease of office space to the program, utilizing the same terms in the lease agreement with the existing tenant. .

Commissioner Wesson also recommended that Rev. Horton work closely with the County Manager to draft a lease but to also maintain awareness about current grant opportunities that could benefit the program.

Vice Chairman Smith made a **MOTION** for County Attorney Smith and County Manager Sauer to draft a lease for the Pathway to Independence program with input from Rev. Horton. Commissioner Harrell **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

**Dr. Ann R. Britt, President of Martin Community College (MCC) – discuss opportunities to serve on the Board of Trustees**

Dr. Ann R. Britt, President of MCC, approached the Board regarding the current happenings of MCC.

Dr. Britt stated that MCC will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 16, 2014 and stated that the North Carolina Community College System has become a national model of other Community College systems.

Dr. Britt discussed MCC's service area, course/program offerings, state/federal funding, as well as the opportunity of a Commissioner of the Board to serve on the MCC Board of Trustees.

Dr. Britt described the process of selection of appointees as well as the trustee and term of appointment criteria as outlined in NCGS 115D-12(b) (b1).

Dr. Britt also shared the history of the agreement between the County and the Town of Windsor in regards to the shared cost of utilities for the community college facility.

Dr. Britt also indicated that she will return in the near future to share more detailed program and budget information.

## **BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

### **Draft Board Vacancy advertisement**

The Board was provided with a list of current Board vacancies as well as upcoming vacancies. The draft advertisement was compiled by Clerk to the Board, Sarah Seredni.

The advertisement will be posted upon completion in the Bertie Ledger-Advance in April 2014 as required the Board Appointment Policy.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Approve minutes for Regular Session 3-3-14**

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the Regular Session minutes from 3-3-14. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

County Attorney Smith recommended that the Closed Session minutes from 3-3-14 be approved as well as they do not affect pending legal matters.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the Closed Session minutes from 3-3-14 as recommended by the County Attorney. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### **Accept Register of Deeds Fees Report – February 2014**

Commissioner Harrell made a **MOTION** to approve the Register of Deeds Fees Report for February 2014. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### **Accept proclamation declaring April 6-12, 2014 as the *Week of the Young Child*<sup>TM</sup>**

Commissioner Harrell made a **MOTION** to approve the proclamation declaring April 6-12, 2014 as the *Week of the Young Child*<sup>TM</sup>. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Resolution reads as follows:



A PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 6-12, 2014 AS THE *WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD™*

**WHEREAS**, Albemarle Smart Start and other local organizations, in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, are celebrating the *Week of the Young Child™*, April 9, 2014; and

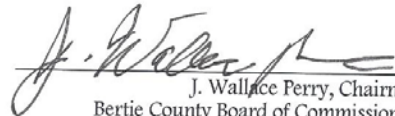
**WHEREAS**, these organizations are working to improve early learning opportunities, including early literacy programs, that can provide a foundation of learning for children in Bertie County and

**WHEREAS**, teachers and others who make a difference in the lives of young children in Bertie County deserve thanks and recognition; and

**WHEREAS**, public policies that support early learning for all young children are crucial to young children's futures;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we the Bertie County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim that April 6-12, 2014 as the *Week of the Young Child™* in Bertie County and encourage all citizens to work to make a good investment in early childhood in Bertie County, North Carolina.

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.

  
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J. Wallace Perry, Chairman  
Bertie County Board of Commissioners

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Seredni, Clerk to the Board

## **FYI – CDBG Monthly Performance Status Reports**

The Board received various Status Reports dating back to July 2013 regarding the CDBG Monthly Performance.

There was no action needed on this item.

### **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

#### **Child Support Enforcement Contract Renewal with YoungWilliams**

Carla West of YoungWilliams and Linda Speller of the Department of Social Services were present for this portion of the meeting.

County Manager Sauer recommended that the Board renew their current contract for Child Support Enforcement Services with YoungWilliams for an additional 4 years.

County Manager Sauer stated that using an outside firm is more cost effective than taking on the tasks as a County.

Ms. Speller also stated that it would require more County staff if there task were to fall on the Department of Social Services.

County Attorney Smith inquired if the renewal contract will be similar to the previous contract.

Ms. West responded by saying that the new contract will be the same as the previous contract, but with minor changes.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to extend the contract with YoungWilliams for Child Support Enforcement services for an additional 4 years as recommended by the County Manager and that the County Attorney will review the contract in preparation for the Chairman's signature. Commissioner Harrell **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

#### **Manufactured Home Park Ordinance presentation of latest draft**

County Manger Sauer requested direction from the Board regarding the progress of the proposed Manufactured Home Park Ordinance.

He recommended that the Board allow him to move forward with Planning Director Traci White to finalize the ordinance and to conduct a required Public Hearing. A Public Hearing could take place as early as the second meeting in April 2014.

County Attorney Smith reiterated that this ordinance could assist the Board in the future with homes being placed on roads that do not meet NCDOT standards as discussed in the October 2013 Planning Retreat.

The Board reached concurrence for the ordinance to move forward and to hold a Public Hearing as recommended by County Manager Sauer.

### **Joint Land Use Study for Seymour Johnson Air Force Base**

County Manager Sauer informed the Board that Planning Director Traci White had begun representing the County at the meetings regarding the Joint Land Use Study for Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

Ms. White stated that the organizers of the study are interested in having an elected official from Bertie County to serve on the study's Policy Committee.

The Board reached concurrence and stated that they would be thinking about an elected official to represent the County on the Committee.

### **Business Personal Property Listing – audit proposals**

County Manager Sauer reminded the Board that they had seen proposals from two different vendors regarding Business Personal Property Tax audits, and that upon further review with Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea, Mr. Sauer recommended that the Board pursue a contract with CTS, Inc.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to pursue a contract with CTS, Inc. as recommended by the County Manager, and that the County Attorney prepares a draft contract for the Board's review in the near future. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### **Consider proposed resolution regarding Medicaid/Medicare reimbursements as proposed by the Bertie County African American Democratic Caucus**

County Manager Sauer informed the Board that Patricia Ferguson, the Chairman of the African American Democratic Caucus, had submitted a Resolution of Support for Medicaid Expansion in North Carolina.

Vice Chairman Smith made a **MOTION** to approve the Resolution of Concurrence as drafted by County Attorney Lloyd Smith. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Resolution reads as follows:



**BERTIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION OF CONCURRENCE FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION  
IN NORTH CAROLINA**

WITNESS THAT WHEREAS, Northeastern North Carolina suffers from unequal access to health care services;

WHEREAS, the Bertie County African American Caucus has passed the attached Resolution calling upon the North Carolina General Assembly and the Governor of the State of North Carolina to accept federal funds to expand Medicaid in North Carolina; and

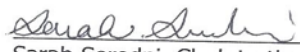
WHEREAS, the undersigned Commissioner's support this important initiative to improve the quality of healthcare to the citizen's of Bertie County.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Bertie County Board of Commissioners through this Resolution of Concurrence that the undersigned Commissioners support the important initiative expressed in the attached Resolution adopted by the Bertie County African American Caucus to improve the quality of healthcare delivered to our citizens.

The foregoing Resolution of Concurrence was introduced by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Wesson. The vote for adopting said Resolution was 4 in favor and 0 opposed. Therefore, said Resolution was adopted.

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.

  
J. Wallace Perry, Chairman of

  
Sarah Seredni, Clerk to the Board

## **COMMISSISONERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner Wesson consulted the Board about an opportunity for the Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) to return to the Board to present new tobacco free regulations on county property.

Mr. Wesson stated that any and all signage would be set up, and paid for by the ARHS using grant funding that is currently available.

The Board reached consensus to invite ARHS back to the County to hear more about the opportunity.

Commissioner Harrell reminded the Board that we had asked the County Manager to work on several items recently: the response to false claims published in a recent mass flier and letter to the editor; the salary comparison information for the Sheriff with other counties in our region; and the expenditures for legal fees.

Commissioner Harrell noted that some of these issues had been dealt with and others had not.

Mr. Harrell stated that he was looking for feedback about all items and that he was still meaning to work with Finance Director William Roberson to understand the outstanding legal fees.

Commissioner Wesson asked County Attorney Smith if the Board could go into Closed Session to discuss the matter of the Sheriff's salary as it compared to neighboring counties in the area.

Upon review, County Attorney Smith stated that salary information of an elected official is public record and therefore must be discussed in Open Session.

Commissioner Wesson prompted the Board to have an open discussion.

Chairman Perry stated that since Commissioner Trent was missing due to illness that the Board would discuss the topic at the next meeting on Monday, April 7, 2014.

The Commissioners had no further remarks at this time.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS**

The County Manager reported that the Council on Aging has prepared its annual request for proposals for congregate meals and the bids should be reviewed and available for the Board to consider at its April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

County Manager Sauer also informed that Board that the County had received a bid from an interested party regarding a foreclosed property located at 517 Quitsna Road in Windsor (PIN: 5861-52-5880).

The current offer being made is \$3,746.61 which would include a 5% deposit.

County Manager Sauer requested that the Board give permission to advertise for an upset bid.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to grant permission to the County Manager to advertise for an upset bid on the foreclosed property located at 517 Quitsna Road in Windsor. Commissioner Harrell **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

### **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS**

County Attorney Smith informed the Board that he has responded to a federal subpoena for litigation involving the State Board of Elections on Friday, March 14, 2014. He stated that the County did not have a lot of information to provide, but that all related documentation was sent as requested.

County Attorney Smith also stated that the contract with McDavid & Associates regarding the water extension project on Farm Road had been reviewed, and that the document was ready for the Chairman's signature. He also noted that his negotiations resulted in significant savings. One item in particular was reduced from \$20,000 to \$2,500.

Lastly, County Attorney Smith informed the Board that he did not have any news to report regarding EMS and that he did not believe the Board would need legal representation at the Water & EMS Work Session on Thursday, March 20, 2014.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED**

Reverend Vonner Horton inquired about the decisions for the Board to table the matter of the Sheriff's salary. She stated that she did not understand why the matter should be tabled when a quorum was currently present that could settle the issue.

Chairman Perry reiterated that the topic would be discussed at the next meeting on Monday, April 7, 2014.

Reverend Horton stated that reasoning was insufficient.

Commissioner Wesson stated that the Chairman does have the authority to table the matter but that he did not agree and would prefer to discuss it this evening.

Chairman Perry reiterated once more that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting on Monday, April 7, 2014.

Monica Lassiter of Windsor inquired about the Community Meeting schedule and asked when the Board would be revisiting the various townships to conduct Commissioners Meetings.

Chairman Perry stated that the Community Meetings would resume in early summer 2014.

Tim Phelps of Windsor approached the Board with concerns regarding recent raises that have been received by various County employees. He stated he had been receiving calls from various community members asking why these raises were given. Mr. Phelps stated that in talking with some of the Commissioners, he was satisfied with the answers he received. Mr. Phelps requested that the Board give the public a chance to hear the reasoning behind the awarding of raises so that public discord could remain at a minimum.

There were no other Public Comments in this section.

### **RECESS**

Chairman Perry recessed the meeting at 8:45pm. The Board will reconvene for Thursday, March 20 at 9:00am in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Glass Conference Room located at 106 Dundee Street Windsor, NC 27983.

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J. Wallace Perry, Chairman

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Sarah Seredni, Clerk to the Board