

Windsor, North Carolina
May 19, 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
Rick Harrell
John Trent
Ronald "Ron" Wesson

Absent: None

Staff Present: County Manager Scott Sauer
Assistant County Attorney Jonathan Huddleston
Network Administrator Scott Pearce
Finance Director William Roberson
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper
Emergency Medical Services Director Matt Leicester

Media members present included Gene Motley of the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald.

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

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Trent led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Woody Pierce, of Pierce Turf Management, 847 Wakelon Road, Windsor, NC was present to express his concerns that the water site mowing bids should have included spraying for weed control. His bid submitted in April included pricing for spraying as he understood the bid requirements as explained to him by Anthony Rascoe of the Maintenance Department. Mr. Pierce's bid was \$49.95 per cutting and was one of thirteen bids received. The bid approved by the Board was submitted by Mr. Ray Jones in the amount of \$38.75 per cutting. County Manager Sauer explained that he had met previously with Mr. Pierce, Mr. Rascoe and the State Pesticide Inspector to review this matter, as previously reported to the Board, and clarified that spraying was not a bid requirement for this service proposal.

There was a brief discussion with the Board and no action was taken.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

The Board convened as the Board of Equalization and Review as directed by Chairman Perry.

Members of the public that were present had no appeals to submit

Chairman Perry adjourned as the Board of Equalization and Review.

APPOINTMENTS

Follow up visit by Dr. Ann Britt, President of Martin Community College

Dr. Ann Britt, President of Martin Community College, was present to provide an overview of curriculum courses and continuing education programming offered at the Bertie County campus in Windsor.

President Britt also briefly reviewed the statutory provisions for the County's responsibility to maintain community college facilities and addressed the process for the Governor's appointments to the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Britt explained Martin Community College's long standing practice of ensuring that at least one trustee is a resident of Bertie County, and described the Board of Trustees Chairman's efforts to maintain this representation for Bertie County.

In addition to presenting student attendance statistics, Dr. Britt noted that the Bertie Campus includes a community room open to the public for various meetings which was utilized for 61 meetings, serving in excess of 800 people in the last twelve months.

Dr. Britt also described the bifurcated service area for Bertie County which delineates the programmatic coverage for Martin Community College and Roanoke Chowan Community College, utilizing township lines as established by the NC General Assembly. She emphasized the importance of the cooperation and respect that each college have for this system of delivering services to Bertie County.

Dr. Britt provided detailed statistics for Martin Community College and its impact on Bertie residents. She also noted the success of the college's equine program and the highlights from the first graduating class to finish the Early College program. She indicated that in the very near future, she would be seeking names for appointment to an advisory committee in Bertie County to guide the college's efforts in the County.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

There were no Board Appointments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve minutes for Regular Session 5-5-2014

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes with changes from the County Attorney for Regular Session 5-5-14. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Accept minutes for Closed Session 5-5-14

Vice Chairman Smith made a **MOTION** to approve the Closed Session minutes of 5-5-14 on the condition that they are not released until directed by the County Attorney. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

EMS Billing Recommendation by Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper

Mr. Dave Pickren of Colleton Software (Tarheel Medical Billing) presented his firm's proposal based on 18 years of service in eastern North Carolina providing EMS 911 and non-emergency transport billing services.

Colleton's commitment includes 48 hour processing for all claims, monthly site visits during the initial six month service period, maintaining Medicare and Medicaid compliance and national certification for its employees.

Mr. Pickren stated his commitment to assuring annual revenue for the County totaling \$1.17 million based on 300 calls per month with a collection service fee of 5.5 percent under the proposed three year contract.

Chairman Perry asked the County Manager and Mitch Cooper for a recommendation and both concurred with the proposal terms from Colleton Software.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve the contract subject to review by the County Attorney. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Matt Leicester presented a follow-up report on the equipment recently purchased at the auction, as approved by the Board last month. He noted the equipment purchased at a cost of \$11,315 had a retail value of nearly \$24,000.

Mr. Leicester also offered a resolution for consideration noting the upcoming week of May as EMS Week in order to honor emergency medical services personnel.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to approve the proposed Resolution deeming May 18th-24th as EMS Week in Bertie County. Commissioner Wesson offered **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

There were no Commissioners Reports.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS

County Manager Sauer reported that the Mid East Commission's Area Council on Aging has recommended that Bertie County receive an additional grant appropriate of approximately \$27,000 in regional funds for support of aging services in Bertie County through June 30, 2014.

Sauer noted that these funds will offset capital outlay budget requests for FY 2014-2015 and will also provide \$20,000 which can be applied to the roof replacement at the Council on Aging's building.

Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to accept these funds to be used as outlined by the County Manager. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

County Manager reported that funding approval was secured by Economic Developer Steve Biggs from the granting agency (Roanoke Electric), which will allow the entire County to utilize remaining pilot extraction grant funds, redirecting them to the NCSU Forestry and Environmental Resources proposal to conduct a resource supply analysis at a cost of \$11,480.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** proceed as recommended by the County Manager. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The County Manager also reminded the Board that the Pathway to Independence Program was holding a dedication ceremony on May 25th and that Reverend Vonner Horton had requested greetings be delivered by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Wesson noted that he would be in attendance and offered to bring greetings on behalf of the Board.

One additional item—Mitch Cooper reported that the State Office of Emergency Medical Services donated three heart monitors to the County last week with a value of \$100,000.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

There were no County Attorney reports.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

Mr. Ricky White of White Oak Medical Transport commented that the Board is moving in the right direction.

Mr. White also mentioned that there are rumors in the community that the Board may increase the annual franchise fee for non-emergency transport providers. He shared that his annual property taxes for his company total nearly \$8,000 and that he felt the franchise fee should not be increased.

There was a brief discussion with the Board, and no action was taken.

ADJOURN

Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting at 8:55pm.