

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**June 16, 2014 at 5:00pm**  
**Meeting reconvened from Thursday, June 12, 2014**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a Budget Work Session with Bertie County Public Schools Superintendent Elaine White and Board of Education Chair Emma Johnson. 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  
Clerk to the Board Sarah S. Tinkham  
Finance Director William Roberson

Chairman Perry opened the meeting.

Superintendent White and Board of Education Chair Emma Johnson reiterated their interest to the Board about the need for a new bus garage for the school system.

Superintendent White expressed her concern for the school system as the State has already cut \$1.6 million in funding to the public school systems, and there was a possibility that more cuts were still possible.

Ms. White also expressed concern for the local charter school as well as a potential new Christian school in the Aulander community that could provide more funding cuts to the Bertie County Public School system.

Ms. White also stated that certain programs within the school system have had to be cut under the proposed budget for FY2014-2015. Those programs included the inability to provide teacher stipends, as well as a beginning teacher program.

Superintendent White also addressed the current proposed amount to the Board of Education's capital outlay of \$100,000. She stated that there are currently 3 schools in the area needing new roofs.

Additionally, Superintendent White informed the Board that utility costs for the new high school were underestimated.

Ms. White stated that using current bills as a standard, the monthly utility costs for the new high school would be approximately \$30,000 a month.

The Board asked questions about the current bills for the new high school and discussed ways to possibly reduce them.

On another note, Ms. White reminded the Board of her interest in securing a new bus garage facility for the school system.

After a request from Superintendent White to discuss the purchase of a potential building for a new bus garage, Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to go into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) to establish the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The Board shifted into Closed Session.

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to return to Open Session. Commissioner Harrell **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

As per a conversation in Closed Session, Commissioner Trent made a **MOTION** to allow the Board of Education to spend \$375,000 from their fund balance to purchase and transform an existing building on County Farm Road into a new bus garage. Commissioner Trent also emphasized the desire of the Board to not use architects if at all possible. Commissioner Wesson **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

Additionally, the Board discussed the School Board's current fund balance, and received input from Superintendent White regarding its status.

Superintendent White requested that the Board approve an additional \$216,408 increase in the School Board's capital outlay for FY 2014-2015.

After some discussion, the Board stated that they would explore the possibility of that request, and provide an answer to Ms. White as soon as possible.

Superintendent White informed the Board that she would be making remarks to the public at the FY 2014-2015 Budget Public Hearing later that evening.

There was no other discussion regarding the Board of Education.

County Manager Sauer informed the Board of the County's current fund balance that totals \$7 million. He also presented a hand out which described the latest adjustments that were made to the proposed budget.

The latest adjustments are as follows:

BERTIE COUNTY  
FY 14-15 Proposed Budget Changes

		Decrease	Increase
6/9 - 6/10	ELECTIONS		
	EQUIP - NON CAP.	\$ 16,100.00	\$ -
	CO RESERVER (VOTING EQUIP)	\$ 75,000.00	\$ -
	PUBLIC BUILDINGS & GROUNDS		
	EQUIP - NON CAP.	\$ 7,831.00	\$ -
	CO - VEHICLE	\$ 8,500.00	\$ -
	ANIMAL CONTROL		
	CO - VEHICLE	\$ 24,333.00	\$ -
	MEDICAL EXAMINER	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -
	Daily Subtotal:	\$ 139,764.00	\$ -
6/11/2013	SHERIFF		
	UNIFORMS	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -
	MAINT. - VEH	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
	EQUIP - NON CAP.	\$ 7,885.00	\$ -
	EMS		
	INSURANCE & BONDS	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
	Daily Subtotal:	\$ 35,885.00	\$ -
6/12/2013	SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS		
	CADA	\$ 5,200.00	\$ -
	ROANOKE RIVER BASIN	\$ 1,557.00	\$ -
	HWY 17 ASSOC.	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
	LAWRENCE LIBRARY	\$ -	\$ 14,000.00
	FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
	STRATEGIC INITIATIVE FUND	\$ -	\$ 103,623.00
	LEGAL	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
	COUNCIL ON AGING		
	CO - VEHICLE	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -
	DSS		
	VIDANT - INDIGENT CARE	\$ 120,000.00	\$ -
	SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS		
	VIDANT - INDIGENT CARE	\$ -	\$ 120,000.00
	Daily Subtotal:	\$ 183,757.00	\$ 249,623.00
	GRANT RELATED ITEM - JCPC		
	REVENUE		
	JCPC	\$ -	\$ (90,451.00)
	MISC	\$ -	\$ (302.00)
	SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS		
	VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL	\$ -	\$ 38,500.00
	JCPC	\$ -	\$ 27,500.00
	JCPC TASK	\$ -	\$ 3,271.00
	CHILDREN MATTERS	\$ -	\$ 30,200.00
	Daily Subtotal:	\$ -	\$ 8,718.00
	GRANT RELATED ITEM - COA		
	REVENUE		
	Increase in projection	\$ -	\$ (53,858.00)
	Daily Subtotal:	\$ -	\$ (53,858.00)
	GRANT RELATED ITEM - Cooperative Extension		
	REVENUE		
	EFNEP PROGRAM	\$ -	\$ (24,000.00)
	Daily Subtotal:	\$ -	\$ (24,000.00)
	Grant Related Subtotal:	\$ -	\$ (69,140.00)
	Grand Totals	\$ 359,406.00	\$ 180,483.00
	Total Change in Budget	\$178,923.00	
	TAX RATE PER PENNY	\$115,111.00 1.55 c	

Additionally, the Board discussed various department fee schedules, as well as the possibility of a cost of living, or across the board adjustment for County employees.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

**Windsor, North Carolina  
June 16, 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 meeting was recessed from June 2, 2014. 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  
Clerk to the Board Sarah S. Tinkham  
Network Administrator Scott Pearce  
Finance Director William Roberson  
Emergency Services Director Mitch Cooper  
Emergency Medical Services Director Matt Leicester  
Cooperative Extension Director Richard Rhodes  
Register of Deeds Annie Wilson  
Department of Social Services Linda Speller

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

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

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Harrell led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Perry opened the floor to Public Comments.

Gary Terry of US 13 N thanked Chairman Perry for his service on the Board, as well as for his years as the Bertie County Sheriff.

Mr. Terry stated that the proposed 10 cent tax increase was too high and that the County should be living “within its means like everyone else.”

Mr. Terry also commented on the services being provided to the County by the Parks and Recreation Department, Veteran’s Services, as well as his belief that the Board of Commissioners should be receiving less pay.

Superintendent White approached the Board, and informed the public that the current proposed budget is “inadequate” for the Bertie County Public System because due to a \$1.6 million decrease in funding from the State, the current County budget would force the Board of Education to cut more teaching, assistant principal, and social worker positions. She also added that more funding cuts are possible, and that new charter and Christian schools in the area could also signify more funding loss for the public school system. She also informed the public present that due to unforeseen circumstances, utility costs for the new high school will reach approximately \$26,000 per month. Additionally, she reported that the school system will be funding a new bus garage facility out of their fund balance, and that the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education will soon be meeting to discuss the future of the Bertie County Public School System.

Teresa Cole, Director of the Albemarle Regional Library, approached the Board with news regarding her last visit to one of the Board’s Budget Work Sessions. She stated that she had spoken to her Board, and that the Board has agreed to fund the replacement of a new roof for the Lawrence Public Library in return for the County to restore operating costs of the Lawrence Public Library.

Dr. Turner B. Sutton, President of the Historic Hope Foundation, approached the Board about the Hope Plantation, and its role in Economic Development in the County. He stated that the plantation provides more “visibility” to the County through its various programs. Dr. Sutton requested the County’s support during the FY 2014-2015.

Stewart White of Perrytown Road, expressed his concern about the budding non-emergency transport program in the County, and that he believed the County should form a committee with the other franchise companies in order to promote unity, and not the loss of jobs among the existing non-emergency transport companies.

Patricia Ferguson, Chairman of the Bertie County African American Caucus, approached the Board with recommendations regarding the County’s Special Appropriations for various non-profits including the Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA), Roanoke Chowan Safe, Food Bank of the Albemarle, and other organizations that emphasize the value of preventing poverty.

Sallie Surface, the Executive Director of CADA, thanked the Board for their support in recent years, and stated that whatever the County invests will be used to serve the residents of the County as the County and CADA “share the same vision to make a difference” in Bertie County.

Mrs. Vivian Saunders, Director of the Bertie County Family Resource Center thanked the Board for their support and encouraged them to “not forget the area’s non-profits.”

Donnie Dunlow of Hoggard Mill Road in Windsor stated that the County should not continue to “bleed the taxpayers,” for the sake of more schools as some students still remain “ignorant” after graduation. He also stated that the citizens of the County have been burdened enough with taxes.

Dr. Michael Elam, President of the Roanoke Chowan Community College, informed the public of the history of his relationship with the Board. He stated that the three concerns that the Board expressed to him upon his assuming of the President position included the relationship between the County and the Community College, a satellite campus in Bertie, and representation on the RCCC Board of Directors. Dr. Elam stated how he had fulfilled and satisfied all requests including securing a Bertie County resident to the RCCC Board of Directors. He also requested that the Board consider reinstating funding to RCCC, and that he desired to closely work with the Board in the future.

Alton Parker, a member of the Bertie County Board of Education, requested that the Board reconsider funding for the Bertie County Public School System, and that Bertie County really needs to “get the ball rolling” on Economic Development.

Latricia Hines, a Social Worker for the Bertie County Department of Social Services, requested that the Board put “their feet in her shoes,” and that she makes a lot of referrals from DSS to the area’s non-profits, and to please support the non-profits and DSS in all that they do each day.

Dr. Ann Britt, President of Martin Community College (MCC), came before the Board to only request the operating costs for the Bertie Campus of MCC, and thanked the Board for their support.

Norman Cherry, former Bertie County Commissioner, approached the Board with his concerns regarding an education. He stated that an “occupation starts with an education,” and that if the County couldn’t increase the funding to the public school system then it should at least “maintain funding.”

There were no other remarks during this section.

Chairman Perry stated that the Board was working diligently to balance the budget, and that the Board would do what they could for all of those requesting funding. He also stated that the Board is committed to the budget, and assured those present that the budget is not yet completed.

Commissioner Wesson thanked all of those present for their time, and assured the public as well that the Board has not yet finished their budget deliberations.

Vice Chairman Smith asked that the public pray for the Board, and to be patient as the Board will do its best to be fair to all, and to keep taxes as manageable as possible.

Chairman Perry closed the floor to Public Comments.

## CONSENT

### **Minutes 6-2-14**

This matter was tabled in order to wait for feedback from the County Attorney.

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

County Manger Sauer recommended this item for approval.

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

#### **Accept corrected Tax Department Error Ledger for April 2014**

Commissioner Wesson made a **MOTION** to accept the corrected Tax Department Error Ledger for April 2014. Commissioner Trent **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

## DISCUSSION

### **Community Meeting Schedule – July 2014**

County Manager Sauer presented a proposed schedule for the remained of 2014 in regards to the Board's Community Meetings.

After some discussion, the Board voted to approve the proposed Community Meeting schedule with changes.

Commissioner Harrell made a **MOTION** to approve the proposed Community Meeting schedule with changes. Vice Chairman Smith **SECONDED** the motion. The **MOTION PASSED** unanimously.

The approved Community Meeting schedule is as follows (**please note that this schedule is subject to change due to the pending availability of each location**):

<b>***Newly proposed 2014 Community Meeting Schedule***</b>			
<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Location</b>
7/21/14	7:00 PM	Lewiston-Woodville	Lewiston-Woodville Volunteer Fire Department 103 West Church Street Lewiston-Woodville, NC 27849
8/18/14	7:00 PM	Roxobel	Roxobel Community Building 204 East Church Street Roxobel, NC 27872
9/22/14	7:00 PM	Perrytown	Perrytown Volunteer Fire Department 848 Perrytown Road Colerain, NC 27924
10/20/14	7:00 PM	Trap	Trap Volunteer Fire Department 213 Valentine Farm Road Colerain, NC 27924
11/17/14	7:00 PM	Windsor	106 Dundee Street Windsor, NC 27983

### **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

County Manager Sauer reminded the Board to recess the meeting until Wednesday, June 18, 2014 as the Board will meeting for a Budget Work Session in the same location.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED**

Monica Lassiter of Governor's Road asked if the County Attorney should be present for this meeting.

Chairman Perry stated that due to circumstances beyond the County Attorney's control, an attorney was not available to be present this evening.

Commissioner Wesson reiterated to the public that all Commissioners' meeting recordings were now available online.

Terry Pratt of the Fisheries Commission stated that he was working hard to find solutions to the County's current water and fishery issues.

Commissioner Wesson inquired about hydrilla (alligator weed), and asked if the organization had found a solution to the problem on the Roanoke River.

Mr. Pratt stated that he had not yet found a solution but stated that it would be difficult to find a solution since it's mostly an underwater vegetation. Any chemicals used to kill it could produce problems for the water supply.

Gary Terry re-approached the Board regarding a new proposed policy by the Obama Administration regarding the cost of wood heaters. He requested that the Board sign a Resolution to help prevent this bill from passing as it could severely hinder the availability of wood heat to citizens in the County.

There were no other Public Comments in this section.

### **RECESS**

Chairman Perry recessed the meeting until Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at 10:00am as the Board will meet for a Budget Work Session in the same location.