

Windsor, North Carolina
October 2, 2023
COMMISSIONERS MEETING

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a regularly scheduled meeting today at 6:00PM inside the Commissioners Room, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was hosted partially in person, and partially via Zoom (conference call). The following members were present or absent:

Present: Ronald “Ron” Wesson, District I
Michael White, District II
Corey Ballance, Sr., District III
Ronald “Ron” Roberson, District V

Absent: John Trent, District IV

Staff Present: County Manager Juan Vaughan, II
Assistant County Manager David Scarborough
Assistant County Attorney Johnathon Huddleston
Clerk to the Board LaShonda Cartwright

Staff Present (Zoom): Information Technology Joe Wilkes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wesson called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Roberson gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

Minnie Outlaw came before the Board to request that the Outlaw Farm Rd sign be put back at the beginning of Outlaw Farm Rd.

Commissioner Wesson explained to Ms. Outlaw that the Board had been made aware of the missing sign and they were working on getting the Outlaw Farm Rd sign placed back at the beginning of Outlaw Farm Rd. However, they were backed up in the sign department. He further stated that he spoke with the person in charge of making the signs and it will be a bit of a delay

but the citizens down Outlaw Farm Rd have not been forgotten and they have been heard and they will get the sign back up.

REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS (A)

1. Update and Request from NC Forest Service

The NC Forest Services came before the Board to request additional funds to continue to support the needs of Bertie County citizens. Regional Forester Tommy Sports stated to the Board due to having a few unfilled positions they could continue to operate with a 10% reduction in funding.

Commissioner Wesson stated that the Board along with the County Manager and Assistant County Manager would research finding the additional requested funds to provide to the NC Forestry Service. Commissioner Wesson then stated that the request would be added to the October 16th Work Session Agenda.

2. Municipal Elections Update by Latoya Peele, Elections Director

Elections Director Latoya Peele provided the Board with an update on the Municipal Elections. Ms. Peele stated that the Voter Registration deadline was Friday, October 13, 2023 at 5:00 PM. She also stated that Sample Ballots were available in her office as well as their website. Director Peele then stated that Absentee Voting would begin Friday, October 6th for the Town of Windsor Residents for those that wished to vote by mail.

Director Peele stated that the Municipal Election would be on Tuesday, November 7th and the would be open from 6:30 AM -7:30 PM. She then stated that beginning with the 2023 Municipal Election voters would have to show an acceptable Photo ID to vote.

Director Peele then provided the Board with the One Stop Plan for the 2023 Municipal Election for the Town of Windsor.

3. Introduction of Economic Development Director Franklin Williams

County Manager Vaughan introduced the new Economic Development Director Franklin Williams to the Board.

Mr. Williams thanked the Board and the County Manager for allowing him to have the opportunity to serve on the Bertie County team. He stated there has been nothing but love shown to him since he has arrived. He stated they were going to try to find funding to assist with the cost of the animal shelter. Mr. Williams then stated he has hit the ground running.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS (B)

None.

CONSENT AGENDA (C)

1. Tax Release Journal – August 2023

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the Tax Release Journal -August 2023. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

2. Budget Amendments

- a. DSS APS Essential Services ARPA Funding
- b. Senior Health Insurance Information Program Funds

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the DSS APS Essential Services ARPA and the Senior Health Insurance Information Program Funds. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

2. Approve Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans

Commissioner Ballance made the **MOTION** to approve the Resolution Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSION AGENDA (D)

1. Update on Basketball Court at Recreation Complex

Assistant County Manager David Scarborough provided the Board with an update on the Basketball Court at the Recreation Complex. Mr. Scarborough stated that he has worked on an RFP to put out but the RFP has not yet been finalized because he was going to meet with Recreation Director Donna Mizelle on Wednesday to map out the location of where the Basketball Court will be. He then stated after the RFP is finalized it would be sent out to see what type of bids the county would receive.

Mr. Scarborough then asked the Board for one more request. He asked if a Pickleball court could be placed inside the basketball court. He stated that he was going to add the Pickleball court to the request to see what the cost would be.

The Board thought the Pickleball court addition would be a great idea due to the sport being in such a high demand now.

2. Discuss Agenda Items for October 16th Commissioners Work Session

County Manager Vaughan stated that he had few agenda items that he would like the Board to confirm or add to as they desired. He stated that having Mr. Bob Steinburg attend the Work Session to provide an update since he was the counties lobbyist. Mr. Vaughan stated the second item consisted of the consolidation plan that was recommended by Vice-Chair White. The third item would consist of a Strategic Planning Session with Project Consultant Robin Payne. He then stated the final item that he had was prioritizing items that were not included in the budget.

Commissioner Wesson stated that if the Board had a wish list the things that they really would like to see done bring those items to the upcoming Work Session for consideration.

Commissioner Roberson stated that he would like to see a handicap accessible van to be purchased for the County to assist departments like Social Services and EMS. That's one of topics that he would like to discuss at the Work Session.

Commissioner White stated that he would like to finalize County Manager Vaughan's evaluation at the upcoming Work Session.

Commissioner Wesson then asked County Manager Vaughan to send a note to Commissioner Trent in reference to if he has any items for the upcoming Work Session.

3. Upcoming Events:

a. Affordable Housing Seminar - October 6th Chapel Hill, NC

Commissioner Wesson stated that he has signed up for the upcoming Affordable Housing Seminar on October 6th with the help of the Clerk to the Board. He stated that the nice thing about attending this seminar was that you could bring forth an idea and the committee would walk you through all that is needed to try to help you make it happen.

Commissioner Wesson stated that when he leaves the seminar he will have obtained some vital information to bring back to the Board to help assist with the housing issues existing in Bertie County.

Commissioner Wesson then invited everyone to go look at the progress being made at the construction site of the new Dream Pointe Apartments.

b. Mayors and Commissioners Dinner October 12th Colerain, NC

Commissioner Wesson stated that the Mayors and Commissioners Dinner will be located in Colerain on October 12th. Commissioner Wesson then explained the procedures that take place at the Mayors and Commissioners Dinner.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS (E)

Commissioner Roberson

Commissioner Roberson yielded his time to the CFO of Roanoke Chowan Community College. CFO Miriam Caslin came before the Board to introduce herself. Ms. Caslin stated that she was the new CFO for Roanoke Chowan Community College and she started on September 5th. She stated that she came to North Carolina by way of Georgia. Ms. Caslin then stated that she came to the Commissioners meeting to represent Roanoke Chowan Community College.

Commissioner Wesson stated that Roanoke Chowan Community College was a great organization and if there was anything that the Board can do to help assist them please let them know. He further stated the Boarded want to assist them in any way that they could.

Ms. Caslin stated that Roanoke Chowan Community College would continue to provide support to Bertie County. She then stated that she was looking forward to the growth and development that Roanoke Chowan Community College provides.

Commissioner Roberson stated that the Community College was the best kept secret.

Commissioner White

Commissioner White asked Assistant County Attorney Huddleston where they were at with the Betty Dozier complaint. This was in reference to the Thomasville Ln road being un-drivable by emergency vehicles.

Attorney Huddleston responded that he had to check with County Attorney Smith in reference to the status of where they were with getting the complaint resolved.

Commissioner White then stated that they were coming up on a year and they still don't have a resolution for Ms. Dozier and that was unacceptable.

Commissioner Balance

None.

Commissioner Trent

Not Present.

Commissioner Wesson

Commissioner Wesson Stated that even though the county has received grants these grants still require matching dollars. He stated they were working on obtaining additional funds. They will be going back to the legislature using the County's lobbyist Mr. Bob Steinburg to seek funds that were still available to help assist our County.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS (F)

None.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS (G)

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)

Robert Spivey

Robert Spivey came before the Board to voice his concerns with the gun violence in the County. Mr. Spivey informed the Board that he had a gun pulled out on him at the Cashpoint in Lewiston.

Commissioner Wesson stated that guns were legal and he didn't know if the Board had an answer for that issue or if there was anything that they could do. However, he thanked Mr. Spivey for making everyone aware because the citizens needed to hear this information.

Commissioner Wesson then stated that he knew the Sheriff's Department was doing a great job with trying to reduce the crime in the County.

Minnie Outlaw

Minnie Outlaw asked the Board if it was in their duties and responsibilities to possibly get curb service for handicap citizens at the Post Office.

Commissioner Wesson stated he believed that was Federal however, they would look into it and he would speak to the Postmaster.

CLOSED SESSION
NCGS § 143-318.11 (a)(3)(5)(6)

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to go into Close Session. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

OPEN SESSION

DSS Funding (Agenda add-on)

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to use the remainder of DSS funds left in their budget to give sign-on bonuses to help recruit new employees. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **3-1** vote. The “No” vote came from Commissioner White.

Republic Services (Agenda add-on)

**SIXTH AMENDMENT TO AMEND AND RESTATED AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT,
USE AND OPERATION OF NEW LANDFILL AND RECYCLING FACILITY**

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the sixty-day agreement that expires on December 8th with Republic Services. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned.

Ronald Wesson, Chair

ATTEST:

LaShonda Cartwright, Clerk to the Board