

**Bertie County Board of Commissioners**  
**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**April 17, 2023**  
**WORK SESSION**

The Bertie County Board of Commissioners met for a scheduled Strategic Planning Work Session today at 10:00 AM inside the Community Meeting Room, 102 Lancaster Avenue, 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

Staff Present :                            Clerk to the Board LaShonda Cartwright  
   Joseph Wilkes (Zoom) – Information Technology

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Wesson called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Ballance gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approve Register of Deeds Fee Report – March 2023
2. Approve Tax Release Journal- March 2023
3. Approve Minutes for Regular Meeting 3-20-23, 3-20-23 Closed Session

4. Approve Minutes Work Session 4-3-23 Open Session, 4-3-23 Closed Session
5. Approve Minutes Special Meeting 4-10-23 Open Session, 4-10-23 Closed Session

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the Consent Agenda . The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

**PRESENTATION OF WATER SHORTAGE RESPONSE PLAN BY WATER SUPERINTENDENT RICKEY SPIVEY**

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to convene as the Water District. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

Water Superintendent Ricky Spivey explained the purpose of the Water Shortage Response Plan.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the resolution for the Water Shortage Response Plan. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to adjourn as the Water District. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

**RECONVENING OF THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION & REVIEW, TAX ADMINISTRATOR JODIE RHEA**

Commissioner Ballance made the **MOTION** to convene as the Board of Equalization & Review. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

Tax Administrator Jodie Rhea stated there were no appeals.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to adjourn as the Board of Equalization. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

**TGOW PHASE I UPDATE & YEAR OF THE TRAIL UPDATE BY ROBIN PAYNE**

Project Consultant Robin Payne provide the Board with an update of the Year of the Trail event, which will consist of a three-day celebration on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>. She stated she would provide a follow up at the next meeting.

Mrs. Payne then provide the Board with an update of Tall Glass of Water. She stated that Rodney Tart with Green Engineering had made a site visit and provided them a detailed estimate of what the upcoming cost will be.

She then provided the Board with a handout that described and explained the duties and needs for Tall Glass of Water Phase 1 which include kayak rentals, primitive camping, trail and maintenance.

**REPORT TO THE PEOPLE PRESENTATION BY BERTIE COUNTY CENTER OF NC  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**

Cooperative Extension Director Billy Barrow provided the Board with a description of what Cooperative Extension/4-H is and the services that it provides. He then introduced the Board to his staff members and they provided the Board with a description of their jobs and the services they provide.

**RECESS-LUNCH**

The Board recessed for a 30-minute lunch.

**UPDATES ON ADULT & CHILD WELFARE SERVICES BY  
THE NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

NCDHHS came before the Board to discuss the next steps for turning the management and oversight of Child Welfare Services back over to the DSS Director. Assistant Secretary Susan Osborne stated that Child Welfare Services will transition back to the DSS Director on May 15, 2023. She stated that the State would continue to provide guidance and assistance to the County to ensure that DSS continues to operate smoothly.

Assistant Secretary Osborne then discussed the \$115,000 that the County is responsible for paying back and the payment plan options. She also stated that Bertie County's advocacy was very instrumental in the way the State will handle similar challenges with other counties in the future.

**FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION ON PAY SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS  
BY HR DIRECTOR CORTNEY WARD**

Human Resources & Risk Management Director Cortney Ward provided the Board with an update on the pay schedule adjustments for the county employees.

After the Board's discussion of Director Ward's presentation, the County Manager stated that he would include the most feasible option in his recommended budget on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. He then stated that after the Board has reviewed the budget, it will have the opportunity to make updates to the option included as well as the overall budget.

**CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS §143-318.11(a)(3)(6)**

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

**OTHER ITEMS AS NEEDED**

There were no other items to discuss.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to adjourn. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner White. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

The meeting was then adjourned.

---

Ronald Wesson, Chair

ATTEST:

---

LaShonda Cartwright, Clerk to the Board