

**Windsor, North Carolina**  
**May 8, 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  
John Trent, District IV

Staff Present: County Manager Juan Vaughan, II  
Assistant County Manager David Scarborough  
County Attorney Lloyd C. Smith Jr.

Staff Present : Clerk to the Board LaShonda Cartwright  
Information Technology Director Scott Pearce

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Wesson called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**NCGS § 138a-15(e)**

Commissioner Wesson read the North Carolina State Ethics Act into the record.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)**

Michael Bond

Mr. Bond came before the Board to ask for an additional Letter of Support for his ergonomically designed paint brushes to send to Lowes and Home Depot.

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to send a Letter of Support for Michael Bonds ergonomically designed paint brushes to Lowes and Home Depot. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **4-0** vote.

Randy Cherry

Mr. Cherry came before the Board to request sponsorship for his annual Juneteenth Celebration.

The Board made a CONSENSUS to deny his request for sponsorship at this time due to it not being a budgeted item.

Commissioner Trent, Commissioner Roberson and Commissioner Wesson then agreed to sponsor Mr. Cherry's event through their own personal businesses.

Mr. Cherry was informed by the Board that he could submit a request to add his Juneteenth Celebration to the upcoming budget for the County.

**APPOINTMENTS & REPORTS (A)**

1. Update on A Pecan Pickling Short Film Festival by Dr. Patricia Ferguson

Dr. Ferguson provided the Board with an update on A Pecan Pickling Short Film Festival. She asked the Board if funding could be considered in the upcoming Budget Planning meetings to help assist with sponsoring 10 students at \$1,000 each.

She then stated that there will be an upcoming Short Film Festival on September 8-10, 2023.

2. EMS Revenue Update and Revenue Projection by Colleton Software

Dave Pickren provide the Board with and update and Revenue Projection. Mr. Pickren stated that that the 911 side was significantly up. He further stated that things were running smoothly and there has not been any issues so far.

Mr. Pickren informed the Board that Bertie would be going through an audit but it was not mandatory. However, the County should participate so that they would not lose 10% of the funding from Medicaid if we did not. He further stated that they are ready for the audit and they would be available onsite to assist.

3. TGOW Update by Project Consultant Robin Payne

Robin provided the Board with an update on the progress being made at Tall Glass of Water. She reminded the Board of the upcoming Year of Trails event that will be happening in July. She briefly went over a proposed budget for the reminder of the Tall Glass of Water project.

The Board provided Robin with suggestion on things that they would possible like to see at Tall Glass of Water such as a dog washing station, pool and etc.

4. Recommendation of Position Reclassification by HR/Risk Management Director Courtney Ward

Director Ward asked the Board to approve the recommended position reclassification for the Sheriff Department.

The new position reclassification included changing a Deputy position to a Sgt. Position.

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the position reclassification for the Sheriff Department. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Trent. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

5. Financial Summary by Interim Finance Director/Assistant County Manager David Scarborough

Interim Finance Director David Scarborough provide the Board with an update on the finances for the County.

Mr. Scarborough stated to the Board that he had no concerns at this time.

### **BOARD APPOINTMENTS (B)**

There were none.

### **CONSENT AGENDA (C)**

1. Approve Minutes for Open Session 4-17-23, Closed Session 4-17-23

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the Open Session and Closed Session minutes for 4-17-23. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Ballance. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

2. Approve Proclamation Recognizing Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners' Week

Commissioner Wesson made the **MOTION** to approve the Proclamation Recognizing Clerks to the Boards of County Commissioners' Week. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson the. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

3. Approve Interlocal Agreement with Chowan County to Provide Building Inspection Service

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Chowan County to Provide Building Inspection Service. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Trent the. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

4. Approve Contract to Audit Accounts with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the Contract to Audit Accounts with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC . The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Trent. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

5. Approve Engagement Letter with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the Engagement Letter with Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Trent the. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

6. Approve Budget Amendments

Commissioner Trent made the **MOTION** to approve the Budget Amendments. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

**OTHER ITEMS**  
**DISCUSSION AGENDA (D)**

1. Request for Permit & Inspection Fee Waiver by Partners for Bertie County Public Schools

Commissioner Roberson made the **MOTION** to approve the Request for Permit & Inspection Fee Waiver by Partners for Bertie County Public Schools. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Trent the. The **MOTION PASSED** with a **3-0** vote.

**\*Special note:** Chairman Wesson and Vice Chair White abstained from voting due to it being a conflict of interest as they both serve on the Non- Profit Corporation Partners for Bertie County Public Schools .

2. Manager's Budget Presentation – May 22<sup>nd</sup>

County Manager Vaughan stated that he would be giving his Budget Presentation on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM in the Commissioners Room.

3. Budget Public Hearing – June 5<sup>th</sup>

County Manager Vaughan stated that the Budget Public Hearing will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He also stated that a copy of the budget would be available in the Clerk's office for the public to review.

Mr. Vaughan then stated that the public would be able attend the Budget Public Hearing to provide any necessary feedback.

4. Identify Tentative Dates for Commissioners' Budget Work Sessions

The Board decided to do a poll vote at a later date to determine the dates for the upcoming Commissioner's Budget Work Session.

## **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS (E)**

### **Commissioner Roberson**

Commissioner Roberson stated that everyone needed to keep an eye out for the court case involving BlueCross BlueShield as it relates to our county employees.

### **Commissioner Trent**

Commissioner Trent stated that he would not be seeking re-election in 2024.

### **Commissioner White**

No reports.

### **Commissioner Ballance**

No reports.

### **Commissioner Wesson**

Commissioner Wesson stated that he had the opportunity to represent Bertie County at the District Meeting with Senator Hanig.- He stated that all 5 of counties priorities were presented and went to the committee.

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORTS (F)**

There were no County Manager's Reports.

## **COUNTY ATTORNEY'S REPORTS (G)**

There were no County Attorney's Reports.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER)**

There were no public comments.

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

Commissioner Ballance made the **MOTION** to go into Closed Session. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Commissioner Roberson. The **MOTION PASSED** with a unanimous decision.

**ADJOURN**

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Ronald Wesson, Chair

ATTEST:

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LaShonda Cartwright, Clerk to the Board