

February 18, 2013

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 18, 2013 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Chairman
 Mark Gillespie, Vice Chairperson
 Charles Ray Peterson
 Delilah Blanks
 Billy Ray Pait
 Russell Priest
 Daniel Dowless
 Wayne Edge
 G. Michael Cogdell

Attorneys: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order. Reverend Larry Hayes, Pastor, Good News Baptist Church, Bladenboro, NC provided the Invocation. County Manager Gregory J. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:
Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda
- B. Minutes of February 4, 2013
- C. Budget Amendments as follows:

Department and Account Number	Account Description	Increase	Decrease
Sheriff			
<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1051005110.200	Supplies	447.50	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103260.018	Jail-Commissions	447.50	
To cover costs associated with inmate supplies.			
Sheriff			
<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1051005130.352	M/R Equipment	8,043.78	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103270.018	Sheriff-HELO	8,043.78	
Reimbursement from the State for use of Helicopter.			
Emergency Services			
<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105300.190	Professional Services	45,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103230.032	ES-Hazard Mitigation Grant	45,000.00	
Bladen/Columbus Regional Hazard Mitigation Grant.			
Health			
<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1059005970.200.005	Supplies-Indigent	49.05	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103560.081	Miscellaneous Fees	49.05	
Reimbursement funds received on recycled printer cartridges.			
Health			
<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1059005985.200	Supplies	5,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.053	FBA-Health	5,000.00	
Increasing supplies for the purchase of private vaccine. State no longer provides vaccine for those that have private insurance. Increasing use of Health Fund Balance.			
Division on Aging			
<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106200.493	Refunds	39,812.83	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	FBA	39,812.83	
To return unspent Rural Operating Assistance Program funding from fiscal year 2012.			

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DSS

Expenditures		Debit	Credit
1461006160.555	Refunds/Client Repay	50.00	
Revenues			
143591.010	Client Refund	50.00	

This amendment is necessary to reimburse a client for an NCHC enrollment fee.

Water

Expenditures		Debit	Credit
254702.900.001	Credit Card Fees	72.00	
Revenues			
253420.010	Credit Card Fees	72.00	

Convenience fees collected with water payments for January 2013.

D. County Attorney Invoices

2-1-2013	\$ 300.00	Retainer for month of February 2013
2-5-2013	\$ 785.00	Division on Aging
2-7-2013	\$ 350.00	Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Bladenboro
2-8-2013	\$ 1,900.00	Sheriff's Office
	\$ 3,335.00	

E. Home Health Personnel Service Agreement for Speech Therapist

F. The Following Procedure Regarding Agenda Item- Matters of Interest to Commissioners: Matters that Board members wish to share with other members of the Board and the public may be items requiring action for future agendas, and will not be acted upon at the meeting at which first presented unless by unanimous consent of the Board that the item be acted on at the time of presentation.

ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

- Chairman Smith delivered the following State of the County Address:

State of the County Address
 County of Bladen
 February 18, 2013

Bladen County Citizens:

I am pleased to report to you on the state of Bladen County. County government plays an important role in the lives of our citizens and 2012 was a productive year for Bladen County with the completion of important projects and initiatives.

The Board of Commissioners, County staff and the many citizens who serve on advisory boards, and in other capacities, have worked together to achieve a number of accomplishments during the past year.

One of the most significant accomplishments in our county's recent history was achieved in March, when the Board of County Commissioners completed the sale of assets of Bladen County Hospital to Cape Fear Valley Health System. This action not only provided for the ongoing operation of Bladen County Hospital, which we recognize as critical to the physical health of our citizens and to the economic health of our community, it also offers hope that a modern hospital facility will be built in our community in the foreseeable future.

The Board of County Commissioners established a Consolidated Human Services Agency for the provision of health and social services in Bladen County. For several years, a major legislative goal of counties was to obtain legislation that would give counties flexibility to organize human services in a manner that would promote greater efficiency and effectiveness. The North Carolina General Assembly approved such legislation this past summer, and Bladen County was one of the first counties to consolidate its human services into one agency.

Bladen County took advantage of the low interest rate environment by refunding General Obligation School Bonds and Water Revenue Bonds, in an effort to reduce debt service payments and save taxpayer dollars.

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The savings associated with the General Obligation Bonds is approximately \$600,000 through 2021 and the savings associated with the Water Revenue Bonds is approximately \$2.4 million through 2041.

Related to the Bond Refunding project, Moody's Investors Service re-assessed the County's bond rating for the first time since 2004. Upon Moody's review of financial information and economic data, Bladen County's General Obligation bond rating was upgraded from A2 to Aa3. Moody's cited Bladen County's relatively strong financial position in awarding this two step upgrade.

Bladen County worked together with Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc. to construct a new, state of the art healthcare facility operated by Cape Fear Valley Health System in Bladenboro. This new primary care facility better serves the citizens in the community by providing local access to a higher level of medical service. The addition of approximately 20 new jobs associated with this project is also important to the local job market.

Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc. began construction on its fourth industrial incubator in the Elizabethtown Airport Industrial Park. This facility, largely funded by an \$800,000 federal grant, will enable gun manufacturer, Del-Ton, Inc., to expand its machining operation by approximately 17,000 square feet and create new high and medium skilled manufacturing jobs.

The Bladen County Health Department received a grant award of approximately \$161,000 to implement a Community Health Assistance Program. This two-year program, referred to as CHAP, will promote healthy lifestyle activities in the Bladenboro and East Arcadia communities.

The Bladen County Water District completed a major expansion project known as Phase III-B. This approximately \$5,991,000 project, funded by a USDA Rural Development loan, will provide a new well and elevated storage tank, as well as approximately thirty-five miles of water lines to residents on the north side of the Cape Fear River, primarily in the Ammon, Hickory Grove and Murphy town communities. This project also included the connection of the County System to the Bay Tree Lakes Water System, which was purchased by the Bladen County Water District in December 2011.

Traditional agenda packets for Board meetings required a large amount of paper. A goal of the Board of Commissioners for 2012 was to transition from a traditional agenda packet to a paperless agenda using computer tablets to improve efficiency and to be more environmentally friendly. I am pleased to report that this transition has gone smoothly.

2012 has been a productive year - thanks to the dedication and hard work of many individuals. We are fortunate to have a great team of elected officials, staff and volunteer citizens who work so well together for the betterment of Bladen County.

In looking ahead, budget challenges are expected to continue at the federal and state levels, which can largely impact an already difficult budget situation at the county level. Difficult decisions will be required.

We look forward to working together to strategically invest our limited resources in an effort to ensure that our citizens have a safe environment, access to quality healthcare, well educated students prepared to succeed in the 21st century, and a positive business environment that attracts jobs and investment to Bladen County.

We will continue to work cooperatively as we strive to achieve the County's vision of "providing customer focused County services efficiently and responsibly."

Sincerely,

James G. Smith, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Cogdell asked that the Board consider contacting a consulting firm to perform a feasibility study in reference to the need for a new jail and the Bladen County School concerns. Chairman Smith advised that Sheriff Benston was working on a proposal related to this matter.

Commissioner Priest advised the Board that Ms. Florence McKoy, a resident of Poplar Heights Nursing Center, would be celebrating her 112th Birthday on February 23, 2012. He requested that a proclamation be prepared and presented to Ms. McKoy in honor of her 112th birthday. The Board authorized that a Proclamation be prepared and presented to Ms. McKoy.

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Commissioner Blanks requested that the convenience center in East Arcadia be made more secure. She stated that the monitoring camera and the light out front do not work.

Commissioner Peterson reminded the Board of the partnership with the Veterans to refurbish the Walk of Honor at the National Guard Armory in Elizabethtown. Funds in the approximate amount of \$28,000 are needed for the project. Mr. Peterson stated that an event was scheduled for April 2, 2013 at 5:30 pm at the armory to receive contributions from donors that have committed to the project.

ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

- No one addressed the Commissioners

ITEM 5. Finance Department: (Lisa Coleman, Director)

- County Manager Greg Martin reviewed the Financial Dashboard for the reporting period of January 2013.

ITEM 6 Consolidated Human Services Agency: (Wayne Stewart, Director)

• **Overview of Environmental Health Services: (Kory Hair, Supervisor)**

Environmental Health Program Coordinator Kory Hair, a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) spoke to the Board regarding the requirements, qualifications and training to become a REHS.

He presented a Power Point presentation on the Environmental Health Programs which include State Mandated programs such as enforcement of food handling establishments, on site waste water (septic tanks), institution inspections, swimming pools, schools and migrant housing inspections.

Mr. Hair also outlined the application process as well as the documents required to obtain these services.

ITEM 7. Revenue Department: (Chis Ellis, Tax Administrator and Carol Cain, Tax Collector)

A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board approved to formally accept the Report of Unpaid 2012 Taxes that are liens on Real Property.

B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board established March 29, 2013 as the deadline to pay unpaid property taxes for 2012 to avoid advertisement on April 9, 2013.

ITEM 8. Sheriff's Office: (Prentis Benston, Sheriff)

- Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board approved a request from Sheriff Benston for an additional six (6) full time jailer positions for the jail by a vote of eight (8) AYES (Commissioners Edge, Pait, Dowless, Gillespie, Smith, Priest, Blanks and Cogdell) to one (1) NO (Commissioner Peterson).

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ITEM 9.**Advisory Board Appointments:**

- A. Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee:**
Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board tabled the appointment held by Agnes McKoy until the next Board meeting on March 11, 2013.
- B. Bladen County Nursing Home Advisory Committee:**
Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board reappointed Pat Jessup with an expiration date of February 28, 2016; waived the term limits and reappointed Joyce Brisson and Sylvia Pait with an expiration date of February 28, 2016.
- C. Child Fatality/Protection Team:**
Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board reappointed Prentis Benston and Terri Duncan with an expiration date of February 7, 2013.
- D. Regional Aging Advisory County (Bladen County Members)**
Upon a motion by Commissioner Blanks, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board appointed G. Michael Cogdell to replace W. D. Neill; waived the term limits and reappointed Virginia W. Gause, Larry Martin, Louella Thompson and Cheryl Waters with an expiration date of February 28, 2016. Appointment held by Margaret Lawrence was tabled until meeting of March 11, 2013.
- E. Land Use Plan Steering Committee:**
Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board approved the appointment of the following Committee members: Commissioner Cogdell - Arthur Bullock and James Blanks; Commissioner Blanks - Horace Munn and Ethel Davis; Commissioner Priest - Darrell Page and Margaret Coble; Commissioner Peterson - Harold Wright and Ronald Allen; Commissioner Smith - Ralph Carter and Joyce Walters; Commissioner Gillespie - Israel Cromartie and Albert Beatty; Commissioner Dowless - Landon Bordeaux and Billy Harrelson; Commissioner Pait - Jim Perry and David Hursey; Commissioner Edge - Ed Tatum and Richard Dunham. All terms expire on February 18, 2016.

ITEM 10.**County Manager: (Greg Martin)**

- A. County Manager Greg Martin reviewed the calendar for upcoming events.**

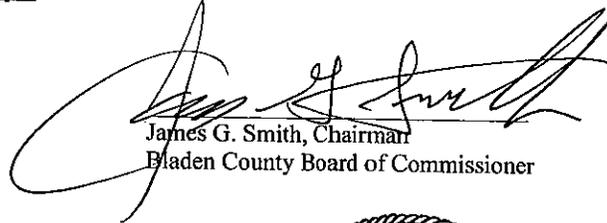
Commissioner Peterson asked that the Consolidated Human Services Advisory Board meeting be placed on the Board calendar. The Advisory Board meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5:30 pm.

- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board approved to cancel the Special Meeting with members of the Legislative delegation scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2013 until all members could be present.** Mr. Martin was asked to contact representatives and obtain dates for a future meeting and bring back to the Board to schedule a

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- C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board approved additional contributions for American Legion Post No. 404 and Harmony Hall Plantation in the amount of \$500.00.
These requests were not included in the adopted budget. Mr. Peterson stated that charitable contributions for FY 13-14 are to be reviewed during the budget process.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Edge, the Board adjourned at 7:25 pm.


James G. Smith, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioner

ATTEST:


Sara S. West, Clerk to the Board

