

**January 2, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

- Ray Britt, Chairman
- G. Michael Cogdell, Vice Chairman
- Charles R. Peterson
- Arthur Bullock
- Daniel Dowless
- David R. Gooden
- Russell Priest
- Ashley Trivette
- Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

**ITEM 1.** Chairman Britt called the meeting to order. Reverend Larry Hayes, Good News Baptist Church of Bladenboro, provided the Invocation.

County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 2. Consent Items:**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of December 18, 2017 Special Meeting.
- C. Minutes of December 18, 2017 Regular Meeting.
- D. Budget Amendment, as follows:

**Planning**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>104220.270</b>	Advertising	500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103110.001</b>	Planning Cell Tower	500.00	

Funding for advertising expense.

**Central Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>105000.330</b>	Utilities	62.25	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.010</b>	Miscellaneous Expense	62.25	

Capital credit refund.

**Emergency Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>105300.610.016</b>	NCDPS-Tier II Competitive Grant	1,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103230.036</b>	NCDPS-Tier II Competitive Grant	1,000.00	

\$1,000.00 on Onsolve payment for E911.

**Emergency Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>105300.740.007</b>	CO-CFDA#97.067 Homeland Security Grant	76,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103230.035</b>	NCDPS-CFDA#97.067 Homeland Security Grant	76,000.00	

Three rehab trailers and one shelter support trailer from Homeland Security Grant.

**Emergency Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>105300.740.008</b>	DPS EMW-2016-SS-00011-S01	28,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103230.037</b>	DPS EMW-2016-SS-00011-S01	28,000.00	

NCDPS Homeland Security Grant for a SAR Support Trailer.

**Emergency Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>105300.740.009</b>	DPS EMW-2016-SS-00011	66,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103230.038</b>	DPS EMW-2016-SS-00011	66,000.00	

NCDPS Homeland Security Grant for a three regional rehab trailers.

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**Health**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>105900.5960.211.001</b>	Fire Prevention	300.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.010</b>	Miscellaneous Revenue	300.00	

Grant funds for Fire Prevention Awareness.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>146100.6160.571</b>	United Way-Caring for Kids	750.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>143531.344</b>	United Way-Caring for Kids	750.00	

Donation from United Way.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>146100.6160.650.001</b>	Foster Care Donations	1,200.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>143190.027</b>	Foster Care Donations	1,200.00	

Donations for Foster Children/Christmas.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>146100.6160.650.001</b>	Foster Care Donations	100.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>143190.027</b>	Foster Care Donations	100.00	

Donations for Foster Children/Christmas.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>146100.6160.814</b>	DSHAP-Disaster Short Term Housing	28,750.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>143710.000</b>	DSHAP-Disaster Short Term Housing	28,750.00	

NCDPS Grant for Disaster Short Term Housing Assistance program.

**Water**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>264702.740</b>	Capital Outlay-Equipment	390,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>263472.000</b>	Water-Golden Leaf	390,000.00	

125 KW Generators for Abbottsburg, Rosindale, Smith Millpond, and Tobermory well and tank sites.

**E. County Attorney Invoices.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>
12/14/17	Emergency Services	\$ 995.00
12/15/17	General Services	\$ 895.00
12/15/17	Health Department	\$ 525.00
12/20/17	Computer Operations	\$ 795.00
12/20/17	Emergency Services	\$ 450.00
12/20/17	General Services	\$ 325.00
12/21/17	Retainer for Jan-2018	\$ 300.00
12/22/17	E M S	\$ 595.00
12/22/17	Sheriff's Office	\$ 1,095.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,975.00</b>

**ITEM 3. Special Recognition:**

- A. Chairman Britt recognized Bonnie Drew upon her retirement effective January 1, 2018. Department of Social Services Director Vickie Smith also wished Ms. Drew the best upon her retirement. Ms. Drew expressed her appreciation to the Board and her admiration of Bladen County's employees and citizens.

**ITEM 4. Public Hearing:**

- A. Chairman Britt declared open a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding the closeout of Community Development Block Grant #11-C-2332 related to Carrol Poultry.  
No one addressed the Board.  
Chairman Britt declared closed the Public Hearing.

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**ITEM 5. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:**

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved an "Authority to Represent" contract with McHugh Fuller Law Group, PLLC regarding Opioid litigation.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Peterson to address the Board. Commissioner Peterson asked Mr. Martin to respond to correspondence recently received from Congressman Pittenger regarding Interstate 74. He also asked Mr. Martin to prepare correspondence to Representative Brisson and Senator Rabon requesting support of four-laning NC 87 from Wilmington to Elizabethtown.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell requested Mr. Martin and Johnson Law Firm to research how to handle volunteer service agreements with the County. Attorney Allen Johnson stated that he would research the matter.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Bullock to address the Board. Commissioner Bullock asked Mr. Martin to update the county website.

- B. Chairman Britt asked the Board to consider requesting Chemours representatives to meet with the full Board regarding water quality concerns. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously requested Mr. Martin to extend an invitation for Chemours representatives to meet with the Board of County Commissioners.

**ITEM 6. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

**ITEM 7. 9-1-1 Communications: (Alisha Evans, 911 Supervisor)**

- A. Ms. Evans provided an overview of two (2) agreements which are necessary to relocate communications equipment from the Emergency Medical Services building to the Detention and Law Enforcement Center. The agreements are with Wireless Communications and CenturyLink. She stated that communications equipment currently housed on the lower level of the Courthouse will remain in place and will serve as the backup Primary Service Answering Point (PSAP) once the equipment has been installed in the Detention and Law Enforcement Center.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved the agreements with Wireless Communications, Inc. and CenturyLink.

Ms. Evans expressed appreciation to the Board and stated that 911 Board representative Marcia Tapler had indicated that Bladen County would likely be eligible for additional funding to complete the process.

**ITEM 8. General Services Department: (Kip McClary, Director)**

- A. Mr. McClary provided an overview of a recent Golden LEAF Foundation grant award in the amount of \$390,000. He stated that this grant would provide funding to purchase four (4) 125-KW generators which would be permanently installed in strategic locations within the county to support the water system in the case of a widespread power outage. He stated that they would be installed in Abbottsburg, Rosindale, Smith Millpond area, and Tobermory. He stated that Live Oak currently has a permanently installed generator. Along with two other trailer-mounted generators, Mr. McClary stated that the total of seven (7) generators would provide much needed support to continue water service to the County's customers in the case of a catastrophic loss of power.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously accepted a Golden LEAF Grantee

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Acknowledgement and Agreement and authorized Chairman Britt to execute the acknowledgement and agreement.

**ITEM 9. Advisory Board Appointments:**

- A. **Division on Aging Committee (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board unanimously reappointed Fannie Long to a three-year appointment, with the term expiring December 31, 2020.
- B. **Library Board (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously appointed Renee Steele to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring December 31, 2020.

**ITEM 10. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration during the January 16, 2018 Meeting:**

- A. **Recreation Committee (4)**
- B. **Local Emergency Planning Committee (7)**
- C. **Lisbon Rural Fire Service District Committee (3)**

**ITEM 11. County Manager: (Greg Martin)**

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of January and February 2018.  
During calendar review, the Board discussed a need for a joint meeting with Bladen's Bloomin'/Agri-Industrial, Inc. Board of Directors, regarding strategies for product development. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously scheduled a joint meeting with Bladen's Bloomin'/Agri-Industrial, Inc. Board of Directors regarding strategies for product development for 8:30am on Tuesday, January 16, 2018. The location will be determined.
- B. Mr. Martin reviewed a proposed County policy regarding Parks & Recreation Team Travel. He stated that the proposed county policy mirrors the current Recreation Advisory Board's policy.  
Following discussion regarding the deletion of travel reimbursement for less than 60 miles and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved the revised policy for reimbursement for travel of more than 60 miles.
- C. Mr. Martin provided an update to the Board regarding Non-Profit Agency Funding requests which have been received. He stated that of the \$5,675 budget for FY 2017-18, \$200 has been allocated to Bladen County United Way's Day of Caring. He stated that this topic would be revisited at a future meeting to receive direction from the Board.

Mr. Martin provided a brief update regarding a recently received grant application from Eastpointe MCO. Eastpointe has designated funding for successful grant applications to Counties who may submit a Request for Information for programs to be developed related to the opioid crisis. Mr. Martin stated that a productive meeting was held between court officials, law enforcement officials and staff, and county administration. A Jail Diversion to Treatment program was discussed and developed for this grant opportunity. Plans are for the grant application to be submitted by the deadline of Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell asked Mr. Martin to contact officials at Eastpointe and request information regarding claims paid on behalf of Bladen County citizens. Mr. Martin indicated that he would do so.

**ITEM 12. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

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Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:07pm.

ATTEST:

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Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

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Ray Britt, Chairman  
Bladen County Board of Commissioners