

**January 21, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 21, 2020. The meeting was held in the Commissioners’ Room, located on the lower level of the Bladen County Courthouse, 106 East Broad Street, Elizabethtown.

The following members were present:

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

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

**ITEM 1.** Reverend Walter Hayes, Suggs Grove Baptist Church, provided an invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 2. Consent Items:**

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

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of the January 6, 2020 Regular Meeting.
- C. Budget Amendments, as follows:

**Finance**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>104400.499</b>	Miscellaneous Expense	10,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103170.040</b>	Sale of Assets	10,000.00	

Flooring and landscape for Administrative Building.

**Tax Administration**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>104500.192</b>	Professional Services Legal	5,000.00	
<b>104500.192.002</b>	Professional Services Foreclosure	5,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103170.040</b>	Sale of Assets	10,000.00	

Foreclosure and Attorney invoices.

**Tax Administration**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>104500.192</b>	Professional Services Legal	572.00	
<b>104500.270</b>	Advertising	1,017.92	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.010</b>	Miscellaneous Revenue	1,589.92	

VIN #9208 – 2013 Ford Fusion Insurance Claim.

**Sheriff**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>105100.741</b>	Capital Outlay – Vehicles	27,089.17	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.011</b>	Insurance Claims	27,089.17	

Insurance reimbursement for patrol vehicle involved in collision.

**Jail**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>105100.5110.120</b>	Salaries	156,388.00	
<b>105100.5110.181</b>	FICA	11,964.00	
<b>105100.5110.182</b>	Retirement	14,091.00	
<b>105100.5110.183</b>	Group Insurance	27,248.00	
<b>105100.5110.185</b>	Retiree Health Insurance	10,119.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103260.025</b>	Jail – Federal Inmate Funds	219,810.00	

To cover expenses for 8 new detention officers.

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**Emergency Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>105300.350.001</b>	M/R Prison Camp	1,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103170.010</b>	Rent	1,000.00	

Rent income from Chapel to be used for maintenance at Training Center.

**Parks & Recreation**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>106600.610</b>	Contracted Services	3,615.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103660.009</b>	Recreation – Donations	3,615.00	

Repair & paint office area.

**JCPC - Administration**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>106806.200</b>	Supplies	200.00	
<b>106806.395</b>	Schools & Meeting	1,064.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103230.023</b>	JCPC-Administration	1,264.00	

Additional funding for JCPC Administration.

**JCPC – Teen Court**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>106807.120</b>	Salaries	556.00	
<b>106807.181</b>	FICA	42.00	
<b>106807.182</b>	Retirement	50.00	
<b>106807.185</b>	Retiree Health Insurance	5.00	
<b>106807.183</b>	Group Insurance	129.00	
<b>106807.200</b>	Supplies	375.00	
<b>106807.310</b>	Travel	750.00	
<b>106807.325</b>	Postage		60.00
<b>106807.341</b>	Printing	350.00	
<b>106807.352.001</b>	M/R Office/Computer Equipment	940.00	
<b>106807.270</b>	Advertising	48.00	
<b>106807.499.055</b>	Restitution Payout	4,800.00	
<b>106807.395</b>	Schools	3,476.00	
<b>106807.491</b>	Dues & Subscriptions		116.00
<b>106807.220</b>	Food	155.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103230.017</b>	JCPC –Teen Court	11,500.00	

Increase in Teen Court for 19-20.

**EMS**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>325302.740</b>	Capital Outlay	64,590.86	
<b>106900.904</b>	TO EMS		32,295.43
<b>106900.901.003</b>	To Debt Service Fund	32,295.43	
<b>747400.744</b>	Principal Debt Service	32,295.43	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>323190.014</b>	Loan Proceeds	96,886.29	
<b>323422.002</b>	Fm General Fund		32,295.43
<b>743422.002</b>	Fm General Fund	32,295.43	

To reflect full cost related to stretchers purchased over 3 years (no interest).

**Bay Tree Lakes FD**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>475347.711</b>	Truck Payment	18,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>473190.050</b>	Fund Balance Appropriation	18,000.00	

To payoff an apparatus.

**D. County Attorney Invoices.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>
01/10/2020	January 2020 Retainer	300.00
01/16/2020	Board of Elections	2,875.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,175.00</b>

E. Tax Releases No. 12-19, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.

F. Bladen County Security Incident Response Policy.

**ITEM 3. Special Recognition:**

A. Chairman Britt, along with the entire Board, recognized the following employees for their years of service:

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<b>Employee</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Robin Hewett	Computer Operations	10
Romall Watson	Division on Aging	15
Greta Murphy	D S S	5
Yvonne Norris	D S S	10
Dena Patrick	D S S	15
Laura Strickland	Health	20
Kayla Parker	Library	5
Agnes McCall	Library	40
Jim McVicker	Sheriff	5
Montreal Smith	Sheriff's Office-Detention	5
Daniel Wilkins	Sheriff's Office	10
Spencer Bryant	Sheriff's Office	10

B. Chairman Britt briefly recessed the meeting at 6:46pm for a reception.

Chairman Britt reconvened the meeting at 7:03pm.

**ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

Chairman Britt recognized Bladen Community College Trustee Chairman Dennis Troy to address the Board. Mr. Troy recognized BCC President Dr. Amanda Lee to join him. Mr. Troy expressed appreciation to Board members for their ongoing support of Bladen Community College and its students.

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

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Bullock to address the Board. Commissioner Bullock expressed appreciation for those who were able to take part in the Martin Luther King Jr. celebration by attending and participating in the parade held on Monday, January 20, 2020.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell expressed concern related to recent requests to County Boards throughout North Carolina to consider adopting Second Amendment / Gun Sanctuary Resolutions. He inquired if a resolution has been requested to be included on an upcoming Agenda. Commissioner Peterson stated that he had spoken with a citizen who had requested the Board consider a Resolution in support of the Second Amendment. Following discussion, the Board asked that any Resolution regarding Second Amendment support should be submitted to the county attorney for review before being placed on the agenda.

**ITEM 6. Emergency Medical Services: (David Howell, Director)**

- A. Mr. Howell provided an overview of a request to declare nine (9) Stryker Manual MXPro Stretchers as surplus. He further stated that the requested disposal of the surplus stretchers to be by Closed Bid. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously declared surplus nine (9) Stryker Manual MXPro Stretchers and approved disposal by Closed Bid. Mr. Howell expressed appreciation.

**ITEM 7. Department of Social Services: (Vickie Smith, Director)**

- A. Mrs. Smith and Program Supervisor Lisa Nance reviewed Adult Medicaid audit results for the month of December, 2019.

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**ITEM 8. Health and Human Services Agency: (Dr. Terri Duncan, Director)**

- A. Dr. Duncan introduced Public Health Nurse Betty Bryan to review a 2019 Communicable Disease Report. Following the presentation and discussion, Board members expressed appreciation.
- B. Dr. Duncan provided an update regarding 2020 Go Red Day for Women to be recognized on Friday, February 7, 2020. She encouraged all in attendance to wear red on February 7, and to educate themselves regarding symptoms experienced by women during heart attacks.
- C. Dr. Duncan provided a brief overview of an amended Health and Human Service Agency Advisory Committee (HHSAC) Operating Procedures. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously approved the Human Service Agency Advisory Committee (HHSAC) Operating Procedures.
- D. Dr. Duncan presented a Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding with New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC) which will allow for a referral source for provision of care and support services to Bladen County residents living with HIV/AIDS. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding with New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC).

**ITEM 9. Finance Office: (Lisa Coleman, Finance Officer)**

- A. Mrs. Coleman reviewed a Financial Dashboard for the six (6) months period ending December 31, 2019.

**ITEM 10. Update Regarding 2020 Census: (Greg Elkins, Planning Director)**

- A. Mr. Elkins introduced US Census Bureau Partnership Specialist Demorrio Thomas and Lumber River Council of Governments Representative Jan Hester-Maynor to provide information regarding ongoing Census deadlines, community involvement, education, and Bladen County Complete Count Committee activities.  
Ms. Hester-Maynor reminded the Board that 2018 population estimates indicated that Bladen County's population may have experienced a 2,000 decrease. If this decrease is confirmed by the 2020 Census, federal and state funds would also decrease. She emphasized the real need to encourage all Bladen County residents to complete Census surveys, either online, by phone, or by mail.  
Mr. Thomas and Ms. Hester-Maynor shared information regarding upcoming notices to citizens, and a potential request for advertisement funding. Mr. Elkins further stated that the Complete Count Committee would meet on January 30 to establish a budget and plan prior to making a presentation and request of the Board.  
Chairman Britt asked that Mr. Martin submit correspondence to churches in order to provide information regarding the upcoming Census and its importance to the County.

**ITEM 11. Advisory Board Appointments:**

- A. **Airport Appeals Board (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Steve Willis and Richard Bryan to three-year terms, with terms expiring January 22, 2023.
- B. **Child Fatality Prevention Team (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously reappointed Tommy Thompson to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring June 30, 2022.
- C. **Elizabethtown Planning and Zoning Commission & Board of Adjustments (ETJ) (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson,

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seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Marie Yvette Ross to a three-year term, with the term expiring January 31, 2023.

**ITEM 12. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During February 17, 2020 Meeting:**

- A. Economic Development Commission (1)
- B. Bladen County Nursing Home Advisory Committee (2)

**ITEM 13. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

**ITEM 14. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:**

No one presented an item for discussion.

Chairman Britt briefly recessed the meeting at 8:12pm.

Chairman Britt reconvened the meeting at 8:19pm.

**ITEM 15. County Manager: (Greg Martin)**

- A. Mr. Martin presented a proposed FY 2020-21 Budget calendar. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved a FY 2020-21 Budget Calendar.
- B. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of January 2020 and February 2020.
- C. Mr. Martin provided a brief overview of a request submitted by the Bladen County Hospital Foundation for financial support. He stated that, historically, this type of request had been approved. He further stated that funds are available and allocated for charitable donation. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a one-time donation in the amount of \$750 to the Bladen County Hospital Foundation.
- D. Mr. Martin provided an overview of a Conflict of Interest Policy which is required for hazard mitigation grants awarded by the State. He stated that this policy, along with Rules of Procedure, and Code of Ethics would be reviewed and approved annually. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Bladen County Conflict of Interest Policy.

**ITEM 16. Closed Session:**

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously entered Closed Session at 8:26pm in Accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney-Client Privilege, and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) Economic Development.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board exited Closed Session at 9:25pm.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26pm.

**ATTEST:**

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Maria C. Edwards, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board

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Ray Britt, Chairman  
Bladen County Board of Commissioners