

February 3, 2020

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 3, 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

Due to a large number of citizens in attendance, the meeting was moved to the Superior Courtroom on the second floor of the Bladen County Courthouse.

ITEM 1. Reverend Kevin Kinlaw, New Center Baptist Church, provided an invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

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

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of the January 21, 2020 Regular Meeting.
- C. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	2,000.00	
104500.192.002	Professional Services Foreclosure	2,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103170.040	Sale of Assets	4,000.00	

Foreclosure and Attorney invoices.

Animal Control

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105200.499.028	Spay/Neuter Grant	5,128.62	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103260.041	Spay/Neuter Grant	5,128.62	

Oct-Dec 2019 Application request, submitted 01/21/2020.

Soil Conservation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106400.499.006	Misc Expense - Drill	11,909.44	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103430.003	Soil Conservation - State	11,909.44	

Transfer to reimburse for expenses for UTV, Trailer and tags.

Other Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106800.450	Insurance and Bonds	12,000.00	
106800.800	Unemployment Insurance	200.00	
106800.810	Storm/Disaster	4,620.00	
106800.810.003	Storm/Disaster Elections	625.00	
106800.810.006	Storm/Disaster EMS Kelly Building	15,000.00	
106800.810.010	Storm/Disaster Recreation	5,900.00	
106930.990	Contingency		12,200.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.012	FEMA Reimbursement	26,145.00	

FEMA reimbursement for Hurricane Florence and Dorian, plus funding for insurance.

D. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
1/23/2020	Board of Elections	400.00
1/28/2020	Governing Board	450.00

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2/03/2020	February 2020 Retainer	300.00
	Total	\$ 1,150.00

E. The following Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Proclamation:



F. ACT Associates Proposal to Provide Grant Writing and Technical Assistance Related to Substance Abuse Disorder Strategic Plan.

ITEM 3. Special Recognition:

- A. Chairman Britt, along with the entire Board, recognized Families First Representative Marjorie Lewis to receive a Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month Proclamation. Clerk to the Board Maria Edwards read aloud the Proclamation. Ms. Lewis expressed appreciation.

Chairman Britt, prior to calling Mr. Tony Priest to address the Board, briefly discussed a proposed Resolution Declaring Bladen County a Constitutional Rights Protected County, which is included as Agenda Item 5A. Copies of the proposed Resolution had been distributed among the attendees. However, a few citizens asked that the Resolution be read. Chairman Britt read aloud the Resolution for clarity and for the attendees' information.

ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

- A. Chairman Britt recognized Mr. Tony Priest in attendance to address the Board regarding the Second Amendment. Mr. Priest thanked the Board for expressing support by considering the Resolution.

Individuals who had signed in to address the Board, C. K. Graves and Delana Faircloth, provided feedback regarding the Resolution. Ms. Graves spoke in support of the proposed Resolution. Ms. Faircloth shared her dissenting opinion.

ITEM 5. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

- A. Commissioner Peterson made a motion to adopt a Resolution Declaring Bladen County a Constitutional Rights Protected County. Commissioner Gooden provided a second.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. He expressed concern regarding the fast pace of the process. Mr. Tony Priest responded to Commissioner Cogdell's question regarding why the Resolution had been requested.

Commissioner Cogdell stated that the US Constitution and the NC Constitution are required to be upheld and expressed consternation regarding the proposed Resolution. Mr. Priest indicated that by adopting this Resolution, the Board would be showing citizen support. He also stated that a Superior Court Judge has overturned a ruling which had been based on the US Constitution.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Munn-Goins to address the Board. She stated her support of the US Constitution, NC Constitution, and specifically, the Second Amendment. She expressed her concern regarding the reasoning why the Resolution is necessary. Mr. Priest further explained that a Red Flag Law is most concerning.

Following brief discussion, Chairman Britt, revisiting the motion on the floor, asked for a show of hands to adopt the Resolution Declaring Bladen County a Constitutional Rights Protected County. By a show of hands, the following Resolution was adopted upon a vote of six (6) AYES (Peterson, Gooden, Trivette, Priest, Dowless) to three (3) NOES (Cogdell, Munn-Goins, Bullock):

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Chairman Britt briefly recessed the meeting at 6:55pm in order to reconvene the meeting in the Commissioners' Room on the lower level of the Courthouse.

Following the move to the Commissioners' Room, Chairman Britt reconvened the meeting at 7:10pm.

ITEM 5. Matters of Interest to Commissioners (Continued):

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Gooden to address the Board. Commissioner Gooden stated that Hwy. 41 between White Lake and Harrells has recently been resurfaced. However, rumble strips have been placed over both the white and yellow lines, which have obscured drivers' view at night. Mr. Martin stated that the NCDOT would be contacted regarding this safety issue.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Dowless to address the Board. Commissioner Dowless provided an update from a recent Mid-Carolina Council of Governments' meeting when information was shared related to progress of the Hwy. 41/410 round-about project. He stated that the project is now scheduled to be completed by late December 2020.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell expressed concern regarding delivery and timeliness of agenda items, and flow of information to Board members. Mr. Martin stated that topic could be included on the upcoming Planning Session, scheduled for 8:00am on Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

Chairman Britt excused Commissioner Trivette to briefly depart the meeting at 7:15pm.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Munn-Goins to address the Board. Commissioner Munn-Goins inquired if an NC 87 expansion project update was available. She expressed concern regarding the project's priority in Bladen County. Mr. Martin stated that the last information he had received indicated that the 4-laning expansion had been developed into three phases; Phase I-US 74 to NC 11; Phase II-NC 11 to Carvers Creek; and Phase III-Carvers Creek to Elizabethtown.

Commissioner Trivette returned to the meeting at 7:17pm.

Commissioner Dowless indicated his understanding that a round-about would be developed first at the NC 11/NC 87 intersection as a safety project in order to leverage additional funds to the overall project.

ITEM 6. Sheriff's Office: (James A. McVicker, Sheriff)

- A. Sheriff McVicker and NC Works Manager Ann Garrett addressed the Board regarding a Maintenance Mechanic II position. Sheriff McVicker stated that no tax dollars would be needed to provide funding for this position. Ms. Garrett provided information regarding a Re-Entry Program which would be utilized to locate an appropriate candidate. This Re-Entry Program was developed to assist misdemeanants an opportunity to reenter the work force. Sheriff McVicker has voiced support of the program.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved a Maintenance Mechanic II position to assist with maintenance at the Detention and Law Enforcement Center as well as other county facilities, such as the Public Safety Training Facility, as needed.

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ITEM 7. Revenue Department: (Renee Davis, Assessor/Administrator)

- A. Ms. Davis provided a brief overview of a Report of Unpaid 2019 Taxes that are a Lien on Real Property pursuant to NCGS 105-369.
- B. Ms. Davis requested the Board to consider establishing a payment deadline of March 20, 2020, to avoid advertisement of unpaid 2019 Real Property Taxes pursuant to NCGS 105-369.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved Item 7A- Report of Unpaid 2019 Taxes that are a Lien on Real Property pursuant to NCGS 105-369, and 7B established a payment deadline of March 20, 2020, to avoid advertisement of unpaid 2019 Real Property Taxes pursuant to NCGS 105-369.

ITEM 8. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During February 17, 2020 Meeting:

- A. Economic Development Commission (1)
- B. Bladen County Nursing Home Advisory Committee (2)
- C. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (4)

ITEM 9. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During March 23, 2020 Meeting:

- A. Keep Bladen Beautiful (1)

ITEM 10. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

ITEM 11. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Chairman Britt congratulated Commissioner Russell Priest upon East Bladen High School naming the baseball field in his honor. All Board members congratulated Commissioner Priest for this well-deserved recognition.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Bullock to address the Board. Commissioner Bullock reminded those in attendance that the 2020 Census is imminent and asked for citizens to participate fully in the process.

ITEM 12. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of February 2020 and March 2020.
- B. Mr. Martin provided an overview of a request submitted by Mr. Gary Rhoda, which requested support for the naming of a bridge located on Martin Luther King Drive in memory of Mr. James C. Batchelor. Mr. Martin stated that the Town of Elizabethtown Council would also consider a similar request since the bridge is located within the town limits.
Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved support of Mr. Rhoda's request to name the bridge located on Martin Luther King Drive in memory of Mr. James C. Batchelor.
- C. Mr. Martin provided an overview of a Bladen Community College FY 2019-20 Budget. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved the Bladen Community College FY 2019-20 Budget as presented.

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Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Ray Britt, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners