

April 1, 2019

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 1, 2019 in the Commissioners' Room located on the lower level of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

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

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Peterson 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 Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of March 18, 2019 Regular Meeting.
- C. Minutes of March 19, 2019 Special Meeting.
- D. Minutes of March 21, 2019 Special Meeting.
- E. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services – Legal	386.00	
104500.270	Advertising	322.22	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	708.22	

2 bids/1756 Lloyd Rd and 1101 Seaboard St.

Parks and Recreation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106600.499	Miscellaneous Expense	3,652.25	
106600.900.001	Credit Card Fees	159.90	
106600.270	Advertising		400.00
106600.491	Dues & Subscriptions		186.25
106600.325	Postage		126.00
106600.910	Special Appropriation		2,140.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
103660.009	Recreation- Donations	800.00	
103660.014	Parks and Rec CC Fees	159.90	

Upcoming expense needs.

F. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
2/21/2019	Board of Elections	2,512.06
2/27/2019	Governing Board	475.00
3/06/2019	Sheriff's Office	375.00
3/19/2019	Water Department	750.00
	Total	\$ 4,112.06

G. Public Hearing Rescheduled for 6:30pm on Monday, April 15, 2019 to Receive Comments Regarding a \$200,000 Forgivable Loan for an Incubator #6 Construction Project.

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H. Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation, as follows:



I. MSDS Online Agreement.

J. FY2020 Special Section 5333(b) Warranty, Certification of Equivalent Service, Certification and Restrictions on Lobbying, and Certification and Assurances Required of Every Applicant for the Benefit of Bladen Area Rural Transport (BARTS).

K. Child Abuse Awareness Month Proclamation, as follows:



L. Use of Courthouse Lawn for a Child Abuse Awareness Event from 11am until 2pm on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Bullock to address the Board. Commissioner Bullock stated that he had attended the MCAB (Municipal and County Association of Bladen) in Tar Heel recently. He provided information regarding a Broadband construction study in the amount of \$2,500 within the region served by the Lumber River Council of Governments and to be administered by Lumber River Council of Governments. He stated that Elizabethtown Town Manager Eddie Madden had indicated his willingness for the town to provide financial assistance of the study. Commissioner Bullock proposed to contact the incorporated municipalities and see if they may be in a position to support the study as well.

Commissioner Bullock also shared that Person County has Broadband services to 90% of the county. He suggested that Bladen County staff research Person County's program for possible direction.

Commissioner Bullock expressed appreciation to the Board members who had supported a recently held Southeastern Community and Family Services banquet.

ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

Chairman Peterson recognized Mr. E. W. Bowen to address the Board. Mr. Bowen inquired regarding plans for beaver management. Chairman Peterson indicated that the topic was included on the Agenda and would be addressed. Mr. Bowen expressed appreciation.

ITEM 5. Special Recognition:

A. Chairman Peterson and the entire Board presented a recently adopted Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation. Mr. Martin read aloud the Proclamation. Families First representative Marjorie Walker was on hand to receive the Proclamation and expressed appreciation for an opportunity to bring sexual assault awareness.

B. Chairman Peterson and the entire Board presented a recently adopted Child Abuse Awareness Month Proclamation. Mr. Martin read aloud the Proclamation. Department of Social Services Program Manager Jill Sampson was presented the Proclamation and expressed appreciation. She expressed appreciation and invited those in attendance to participate in the annual event scheduled for 11am until 2pm on April 27, 2019. The event will be held on the Courthouse Lawn.

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ITEM 6. Bladen County Schools: (Sharon Penny, Finance Director)

- A. In Mrs. Penny's absence, Mr. Lou Nealon provided an overview of the Capital Outlay request in the amount of \$127,691.14. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved a Capital Outlay Request in the amount of \$127,691.14.

ITEM 7. Parks and Recreation Department: (Grant Pait, Director)

- A. Mr. Pait provided an overview of a proposed Matching Incentive Grant Program. Commissioner Cogdell inquired regarding a cap which may be applied to the grant. Mr. Pait and Mr. Martin stated that the proposed policy can be reviewed and more stipulations included. Chairman Peterson stated that there are a number of resources to assist in developing walking trails in communities through the Healthy Bladen Collaborative. He reminded the Board that development of the FY 2019-20 Budget will be challenging. Commissioner Munn-Goins stated that the outlying communities have paid taxes for a number of years, with no evident return on investment. Following discussion, the Board asked Mr. Pait to develop a budget for the matching incentive grant and return to the Board.

ITEM 8. Bladen County Library: (Kelsey Edwards, Director)

- A. Mrs. Edwards provided an overview of a Memorandum of Agreement in the amount of \$35,000 with the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources-State Library. She stated that the intent of the grant is to provide funds to purchase hotspot combination devices and portable wi-fi hotspots to be available for checkout by students who do not have access to devices and home internet. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Memorandum of Agreement in the amount of \$35,000 with the North Carolina of Natural and Cultural Resources-State Library.

ITEM 9. Revenue Department: (Renee Davis, Tax Administrator/Assessor)

- A. Mrs. Davis inquired of the Board to consider scheduling Board of Equalization and Review meetings for 5:30pm on Monday, April 15, 2019 and Monday, May 6, 2019. Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously scheduled Board of Equalization and Review meetings for 5:30pm on Monday, April 15 and on Monday, May 6, 2019.
- B. Mrs. Davis provided an overview of a bid for county-owned property located on Murphy Town Road in the Lake Creek township. She stated that the half-acre tract was foreclosed in 2009, with an investment to the county of \$3,100. The assessed tax value is \$3,750. Mr. Richard Highsmith submitted a bid in the amount of \$3,100 on March 13, 2019 for the property (PIN 1393 0027 8359). Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously accepted the bid submitted by Mr. Highsmith to begin the upset bid process.

ITEM 10. Advisory Boards Appointments for Consideration During April 15, 2019 Board Meeting:

- A. Bladenboro Rural Fire District Committee (2)
B. Cape Fear River Assembly (1)
C. Carvers Creek Fire Service District Committee (3)
D. Elizabethtown Fire Service District Committee (2)

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ITEM 11. Advisory Boards Appointments for Consideration During May 20, 2019 Board Meeting:

- A. Dublin Fire District Committee (2)
- B. Kelly Dike and Drainage District (2)

ITEM 12. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of April and May 2019.
- B. Mr. Martin provided a brief overview of initial appointments to a Beaver Management Program Advisory Committee. Following discussion, the Board appointed E. W. Bowen, Dean Morris, Dan Ward, Steve Guyton, and Commissioner David Gooden to serve on the committee to further research a beaver bounty program and return to the Board with recommendations.
- C. Mr. Martin provided an overview of amended legislation to allow review of recordings in a Closed Session. Mr. Martin stated that the Rules of Procedure for the Bladen County Board of Commissioners should be amended to include NCGS 143-318.11(a) (10). Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously amended the Rules of Procedure for the Bladen County Board of Commissioners to include NCGS 143-318.11(a) (10).

ITEM 13. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:19pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners