

April 6, 2020

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 6, 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
Michael Cogdell
Daniel Dowless
Russell Priest
Arthur Bullock

Attending electronically:

Ashley Trivette
Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins
Charles R. Peterson

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Ray Britt 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 Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of the March 9, 2020 Regular Meeting.
- C. Minutes of the March 20, 2020 Emergency Meeting.
- D. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Legal	6,000.00	
104500.192.002	Professional Foreclosures	13,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103170.040	Sale of Assets	19,000.00	

Foreclosures and Attorney Invoices.

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Legal	270.00	
104500.270	Advertising	1,373.94	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	1,643.94	

Airport Rd property sold.

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Legal	191.00	
104500.270	Advertising	114.96	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	305.96	

#0027752 158 Fletcher Johnson Rd.

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	2,309.80	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	2,309.80	

VIN #7889 – 2019 Dodge Charger.

Emergency Services

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

Chapel rent for maintenance.

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Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105900.5910.610	Professional Services	10,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103560.082	Hep B/Flu	10,000.00	

WIC Professional Services.

Division on Aging

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6201.801	Indirect Costs	13,572.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.033	DOA-Trans S. 18 Adm	13,572.00	

Increase to match state budget.

Library

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106700.200	Supplies	500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	500.00	

Donation from Woodmen of the World.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.706	LIEAP	19,855.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.033	LIEAP	19,855.00	

Increase in Funding - 100% Federal.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness Donation	455.25	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.028	Child Abuse Awareness Donation	455.25	

To purchase items for the Foster Care unit.

GIS

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104700.900.010	Non Allowable 911 Expenses	64,575.40	
106930.990	Contingency		64,575.40

Restate 2018 Fund Balance for NC 911 Report.

Central Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105000.350	M/R Building & Grounds	5,577.81	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	5,577.81	

Lightning damage on chiller.

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	137.20	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	137.20	

VIN #4233 repairs.

DR 4393-HMGP

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
115306.960.001	Admin	47,695.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
113230.049	DR 4393-HMGP	47,695.00	

Subgrant Management Costs.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness Donation	100.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.028	Child Abuse Awareness Donation	100.00	

To purchase items for the Child Abuse Awareness Program

E. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
3/03/2020	Governing Board	400.00
3/04/2020	Sheriff's Office	350.00
3/05/2020	Sheriff's Office	100.00
3/12/2020	Board of Elections	1,950.00
3/30/2020	Sheriff's Office	850.00
	Total	\$ 3,650.00

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- F. Tax Releases No. 2-20, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.
- G. The following Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation:



- H. Tyler Technologies Software and Related Services Platform Upgrade Agreement.
- I. FY 2020-21 NC Department of Transportation Community Transportation Program Grant Attachments for the Benefit of Bladen Area Rural Transportation System (BARTS).
- J. Bladen Area Rural Transportation System Title VI Plan Update.
- K. Lease Agreement with North Carolina Department of Public Safety.
- L. Review of February 2020 Adult Medicaid Audit Results.
- M. Review of February 2020 Financial Dashboard.
- N. North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, Applicant Disaster Assistance Agreement for FEMA-4487-DR-NC (COVID-19).
- O. Designation of Applicant's Agent and Applicant Assurances for Public Assistance Regarding FEMA-4487-DR-NC (COVID-19).
- P. Donation of Bladen County Flag to the Town of Bladenboro.

ITEM 3. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

Chairman Britt recognized Attorney Leslie Johnson to address the Board. Mr. Johnson briefly discussed previous acquisition grants processes following Hurricane Matthew. He stated that he and his office handled deed searches and provided legal opinions for a number of properties. His office had recently submitted a bid to complete additional deed searches for a Hurricane Florence acquisition grant. He indicated that the bid was submitted with incorrect pricing, and he has withdrawn his bid for the project. Mr. Johnson expressed appreciation.

ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Gooden to address the Board. Commissioner Gooden inquired regarding Bladen County EMS not currently utilizing the Lisbon Fire Department facility. He stated that he understood that a rescue unit had been stationed in the Lisbon community previously. He further stated a number of residents requested the County place a rescue unit there in order to minimize response times. Chairman Britt stated that he had also been approached as well.

Mr. Martin stated that the Lisbon Fire District Board of Directors had expressed displeasure of how the facility had been treated and left in a state of disarray. However, he stated that he understood that line of communication had opened. He also shared that the rescue unit, most recently, had been stationed in the Clarkton area.

Commissioners Bullock, Munn-Goins, and Peterson expressed concern and encouraged the EMS Director to contact the Lisbon Fire District Board of Directors.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Arthur Bullock to address the Board. Commissioner Bullock inquired regarding personal protection equipment (PPE) for fire department members. Emergency Management Director Nathan Dowless shared that PPE, due to the COVID-19 situation, is difficult to obtain. He stated that the state inventory is being provided to areas with higher COVID-19 incidents. Mr. Dowless assured the Board that efforts are ongoing to secure PPE for Bladen County personnel, as well as volunteer fire fighters.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Munn-Goins to address the Board. Commissioner Munn-Goins inquired regarding an update related to trash in the Lisbon area. Mr. Martin stated that law enforcement is working to locate the individuals who dumped trash on the roadside and on private property.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Bullock to address the Board. Commissioner Bullock expressed concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also expressed concern regarding private businesses being closed while other businesses have not been.

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ITEM 5. Health and Human Services Agency: (Dr. Terri Duncan, Director)

- A. Dr. Duncan provided an update regarding COVID-19 pandemic activities within the county. She continued to urge individuals to physically distance from others, wash hands, cover coughs (inside the elbow), and self-isolate if you are not well.
Following discussion, the Board expressed appreciation.
- B. Dr. Duncan provided an overview of a North Carolina FY 2020-21 Consolidated Agreement. She stated that the agreement outlines the duties and responsibilities of both the county and state for providing services to the citizens of Bladen County. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved the FY 2020-21 North Carolina Consolidated Agreement.
- C. Dr. Duncan provided a brief overview of a Contractual Agreement with Nutrition Plus for the period of January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020. She stated that during the March 9, 2020 Health and Human Services Agency Advisory Board meeting, the agreement was discussed and recommended to be presented to the Board of Commissioners.
Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved a Contractual Agreement with Nutrition Plus for the period of January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020.
- D. Dr. Duncan presented an updated Fee Schedule. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved the updated Fee Schedule.

ITEM 6. Emergency Services: (Nathan Dowless, Director)

- A. Mr. Dowless provided an overview of a Holland Consulting Planners Contract for Consultant Services, regarding Hurricane Florence Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Expedited Acquisitions. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Holland Consulting Planners Contract for Consulting Services regarding a Hurricane Florence Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Expedited Acquisitions.
- B. Mr. Dowless provided an overview of Professional Services Agreements and supporting documentation recommended by Holland Consulting Planners for the following services:
- Surveying Services ESP Associates, Inc.
 - Legal Services Womble & Campbell, PA
 - Asbestos Inspection Services W. F. Bulow Inspections
 - Appraisal Services R. Michael Bell
- Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved Holland Consulting Planners recommendations and supporting documentation.
- C. Mr. Dowless presented a Sales Agreement and Contract pertaining to the purchase of property under the Hurricane Matthew Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The property is located at 16693 NC Hwy. 210 East, Ivanhoe. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Sales Agreement and Contract for the purchase of property located at 16693 NC Hwy. 210 East, Ivanhoe.
- D. Mr. Dowless presented a Sales Agreement and Contract pertaining to the purchase of property under the Hurricane Matthew Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The property is located at Unit R2, 1486 NC Hwy. 11, Kelly. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously approved a Sales Agreement and Contract for the purchase of property located at Unit R2, 1486 Hwy. 11, Kelly.

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ITEM 7. Bladen County Water District:

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board unanimously entered session as Bladen County Water District Board of Directors.
- B. Mr. Martin provided an overview of required Local Government Commission (LGC) application and documentation regarding a Phase IV Water System Expansion project financing. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved Local Government Commission (LGC) Application and related documentation.
- C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously exited session as Bladen County Water District Board of Directors.

ITEM 8. Revenue Department: (Renee Davis, Tax Administrator/Assessor)

- A. Ms. Davis provided an overview of a bid in the amount of \$4,675 for county-owned property (PIN No. 2224-00 40-1603), located in the Frenches Creek township. Ms. Davis stated that Karim Cason submitted the bid on March 20, 2020 for the 11.5 acre tract of land. She also stated that the property carries a tax valuation of \$15,080, with an investment by the county in the amount of \$4,675. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously accepted a bid in the amount of \$4,675 submitted by Karim Cason for county-owned property (PIN No. 2224-00 40-1603). By accepting the bid, the upset bid process will be initiated.
- B. Ms. Davis provided an overview of the process by which a recommendation by the interview panel to contract with Piner Associates to complete a 2022 Revaluation project. The interview panel members were Chairman Ray Britt, Vice Chairman David Gooden, Commissioner Michael Cogdell, Commissioner Charles Peterson, County Manager Greg Martin, and Tax Administrator/Assessor Renee Davis. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved the interview panel's recommendation to enter into an agreement in the amount of \$565,000 with Piner Appraisal, Inc. for the 2022 Revaluation project, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.

ITEM 9. Advisory Board Appointment:

- A. **Keep Bladen Beautiful (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously tabled an appointment.

ITEM 10. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During a Future Meeting:

- A. Bladenboro Fire District Committee (3)

ITEM 11. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin inquired, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, if the Board would be inclined to consider canceling the April 20 regular Board meeting. He reminded the Board that, by NC General Statute, that Boards of County Commissioners are required to meet at least monthly. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously canceled the April 20, 2020 regular Board meeting.

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Mr. Martin did state that the Board would be requested to consider scheduling FY 2020-21 Budget meetings in order to have a balanced budget for consideration prior to June 30, 2020.

Mr. Martin expressed appreciation to county staff who continue working diligently, providing essential services.

Chairman Britt expressed appreciation to the county manager and management staff for essential leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Ray Britt, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners