

April 15, 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
 Ashley Trivette
 Ray Britt
 Russell Priest

Excused: Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Reverend Tommy Knight, Dublin First Baptist Church, provided the Invocation. Guest 4-H'er Hannah Wheelless led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

Prior to approval of the Agenda, Commissioner Cogdell made a motion to remove Item 2F, Resolution Opposing the Change from a Traditional School Calendar to a Year-Round School Calendar and Opposing Restoring Control of School Calendars to Local Boards of Education. Commissioner Trivette provided a second. The Board unanimously removed the item from the Agenda.
Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of April 1, 2019 Regular Meeting.
- C. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.357	M/R - Vehicles	4,814.05	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	4,814.05	

To repair 2019 Dodge Charger VIN #4147.

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.357	M/R - Vehicles	2,159.40	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	2,159.40	

To repair 2015 Dodge Durango VIN #7687.

Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.5110.200	Supplies	4,382.94	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	4,382.94	

Bob Barker Refund for prior year supplies.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105900.5905.200	Supplies	10,826.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103330.061	DHHS-Environmental Health	10,826.00	

Additional State Grant.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105900.5930.200.027	MCH Mini Grant	20,757.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.100	DHHS-Maternal Health	20,757.00	

Additional State Grant.

April 15, 2019

Division on Aging

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6230.287	Food - Ensure	6,863.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.024	Ensure Revenue	6,863.00	

To purchase additional ensure.

Other Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106800.810	Storm/Damage	75,100.00	
106800.810.001	Storm/Damage - Ag Building	24,100.00	
106800.810.002	Storm/Damage - Animal Shelter	12,100.00	
106800.810.007	Storm/Damage - LEC	400.00	
106800.810.008	Storm/Damage - Tower	22,200.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.012	FEMA Reimbursements	133,900.00	

Hurricane Florence expenses pending reimbursement from FEMA.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness	94.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.028	Child Abuse Awareness	94.00	

Donations for Child Abuse Awareness.

Solid Waste

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
205800.810	Storm/Damage Funding	169,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
203190.012	FEMA Reimbursements	169,000.00	

Hurricane Florence expenses pending reimbursement from FEMA.

D. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
3/04/2019	Sheriff's Office	375.00
3/04/2019	Governing Board	2,675.00
3/04/2019	E M S	575.00
3/20/2019	BARTS	525.00
4/08/2019	April-2019 Retainer	300.00
	Total	\$ 4,450.00

E. Tax Releases No. 3-19, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.

F. Removed from Agenda. See Item 2 above.

G. Letter of Support for Eastpointe.

ITEM 3. Special Recognition:

A. Chairman Peterson and the entire Board recognized Clara Johnson upon her retirement effective April 1, 2019. Ms. Johnson served the County for twenty-four (24) years as a Public Health Nurse. HHS Director Terri Duncan expressed appreciation. The Board expressed appreciation and presented Ms. Johnson a plaque.

B. Chairman Peterson and the entire Board recognized the following employees for their years of service:

Employee	Department	Years of Service
John Patrick (JP) Kelly	Sheriff's Office	5
Sonya Heustess	Sheriff's Office	25
Matt Chadwick	Building Inspections	20
Sharon McKoy-Clark	D S S	15
Dana Norris	E M S	5
Kayla Brienne	Health Department	5
Monica Locklear	Health Department	5
Marianne Valentiner	Health Department	10
Shannon Pate	Health Department	25
Doncee Ruffin	Register of Deeds	20

C. Chairman Peterson briefly recessed at 6:40pm the meeting for a reception.

Chairman Peterson reconvened the meeting at 6:53pm.

April 15, 2019

ITEM 4. Public Hearing:

- A. Chairman Peterson declared open a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a \$200,000 forgivable loan to Bladen's Bloomin'/Agri-Industrial, Inc. related to an Incubator #6 Construction Project.
No one in attendance addressed the Board.
Chairman Peterson closed the Public Hearing.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a \$200,000 forgivable loan to Bladen's Bloomin'/Agri-Industrial, Inc. for an Incubator #6 construction project.

ITEM 5. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Gooden to address the Board. Commissioner Gooden inquired regarding an Elizabethtown town limit sign installed near the entrance into the Industrial Park. He stated that the sign placement greatly inhibits the ability to see oncoming traffic. Mr. Martin stated that he would follow up with NC Department of Transportation.

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Bullock to address the Board. Commissioner Bullock inquired regarding directional signs on NC 87 for East Bladen and West Bladen High Schools. He stated that he believed that West Bladen High School had a directional sign on NC 41. NC Department of Transportation representative Ken Clark addressed Board, stating that NCDOT policy was to install directional signs only when high schools are located on secondary or rural roads. Since both high schools are on major roads, policy did not allow for placement of directional signs.

- A. Chairman Peterson provided an overview and history regarding a request submitted by "Friends of Ron" for a portion of NC 87 from Bladen Bluffs-Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority to NC 131 to be named in memory of Ronald "Ron" P. Allen, Jr. Chairman Peterson stated that Ron Allen was killed in the line of duty on September 22, 2006, the first recorded fallen firefighter in Bladen County.
Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously adopted the following Resolution in Support of Naming a Portion of NC 87 from Bladen Bluffs-Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority to NC 131 in Memory of Lieutenant Ronald "Ron" P. Allen, Jr.:



ITEM 6. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

Chairman Peterson recognized Mr. E. W. Bowen to address the Board. Mr. Bowen inquired regarding funding for beaver management. Mr. Bowen has recently been appointed to a Beaver Management Program Advisory Committee, but stated that the Committee had no funds earmarked from the County. Chairman Peterson stated that the Committee was to research options and submit recommendations to the Board. The Board, at that time, could approve a recommendation and provide funding for a program. Mr. Bowen expressed appreciation.

ITEM 7. Finance Department: (Lisa Coleman, Finance Officer)

- A. Mrs. Coleman reviewed a Financial Dashboard for the nine-month period ending March 31, 2019..
- B. Mrs. Coleman then introduced Bryan Scott of Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Company. Mr. Scott expressed appreciation to the Board and Bladen County Manager, Finance Office and County staff for their cooperation and professionalism during the audit process.

April 15, 2019

Mr. Scott provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Audit, noting identified deficiencies related to policies and procedures for determining Medicaid eligibility and for uploading documentation into NCFAST.

Following the audit presentation and discussion, upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously accepted the FY 2017-18 Audit as presented.

ITEM 8. Department of Social Services: (Vickie Smith, Director)

- A. Mrs. Smith also introduced Program Manager Lisa Nance. Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Nance provided an overview of a program improvement plan, including audits of applications, a check list developed for all required documentation to be used for each initial certification and recertification, prior to uploading information into the NCFAST system. Mrs. Smith stated that 9 employees have responsibilities of inputting approximately 3,600 certification and recertification requests on an annual basis. She further discussed a proposed auditor position in a preliminary FY 2019-20 Budget. She indicated that the supervisor and lead worker would not have time to audit each of the applications. She stated that once an employee is hired, they undergo training for a full twelve (12) months. Documentation is reviewed for all new employees until the 12-month period of time has passed. If warranted, additional training would be completed as well. Seasoned employees (at least one year of experience) use a checklist to assure that all required documentation has been received and checked.

Following discussion, the Board expressed appreciation to Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Nance for efforts to assure accuracy.

ITEM 9. Health and Human Services Agency: (Terri Duncan, Director)

- A. Mrs. Duncan provided an overview of a Medical Service Agreement with East Coast Migrant Head Start Project. She stated that the agreement would allow for making assessments for each new enrolled child, making certain that appropriate on-age preventative and primary care is provided, including vaccines, physicals, dental, and mental healthcare.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously approved a Medical Service Agreement with East Coast Migrant Head Start Project.

ITEM 10. North Carolina Department of Transportation: (Kenneth L. Clark, PE)

- A. Mr. Clark provided a brief overview of a request to include an extension of Hillcrest Drive in the Cape Owen Manor subdivision to the State Maintained Secondary Road System. He stated that the .17 mile extension meets state standards.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously adopted the following Resolution Supporting the Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System of Hillcrest Drive Extension (SR 1361):



Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Bullock to address the Board and Mr. Clark. Commissioner Bullock inquired about pavement issues with the entrance/exit for Burger King on Peanut Road, as well as extremely rough spots where a crossline was recently installed adjacent to Campbell Oil on Peanut Road. Mr. Clark stated that he would research the issues and be in touch with Mr. Martin.

ITEM 11. Sheriff’s Office: (Jim McVicker, Sheriff)

- A. Sheriff McVicker and Bladen County Schools Finance Officer Sharon Penny provided an overview of a FY 2018-19 \$100,000 grant awarded to Bladen County Schools for funding of a School Resource Officer for the current school year. Ms. Penny stated that a very informal notification was received via email during July 2018. With focused efforts during and following Hurricane Florence, the grant was misfiled prior to being fulfilled. Mrs. Penny stated that Bladen County Schools has been notified that the grant would be awarded for FY 2019-20 as well.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved an additional School Resource Officer position to be funded by the Bladen County Schools Grant.

ITEM 12. Emergency Services: (Bradley Kinlaw, Director)

- A. Mr. Kinlaw introduced Holland Consulting Planners Project Manager Ryan Cox to provide information regarding the bid process for a Hurricane Matthew DRA Rehabilitation Project. Mr. Cox provided new information regarding the low bidder for the majority of the bid projects. Mr. Carr of W. F. Carr Construction contacted Mr. Cox earlier in the evening to make him aware of recent health issues and that he was not in a position to complete the jobs. Mr. Cox recommended awarding the contracts to the next low bidder as follows:

Location	Contractor	Award
1604 Lightwood Knot Rd, Kelly	From the Ground Up Construction	8,272.00
2305 Alta Street, Elizabethtown	Holland Construction	34,110.00
2458 Baltimore Road, Council	Holland Construction	15,470.00
16521 Twisted Hickory Rd, Bladenboro	Holland Construction	6,120.00
387 Short Hills Drive, Dublin	Holland Construction	49,400.00
303 S Ash Street, Bladenboro	Rebid: all bids over budget	

Mr. Cox provided the Bid Tabulation showing that W. F. Carr Construction had submitted bids for the four (4) projects recommended to award to Holland Construction for approximately \$21,000 less. However, W. F. Carr Construction has withdrawn its bids. Chairman Peterson inquired regarding a rebidding of projects. Mr. Cox stated that was a viable option, but reminded the Board that these homes were damaged during Hurricane Matthew, which occurred more than two years ago.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board voted to accept Holland Consulting Planners recommendation and award construction projects as listed above. The approval carried by a vote of seven (7) AYES (Cogdell, Trivette, Priest, Britt, Gooden, Dowless, Bullock) to one (1) NO (Peterson).

ITEM 13. Bladen County Library: (Kelsey Edwards, Director)

- A. Mrs. Edwards provided an overview of the bid process for a re-carpeting and re-flooring project to be completed at the main branch of the Public Library. She stated that she had contacted three (3) vendors and received bids from Do-Right Carpet, and Sherwin-Williams of Fayetteville. Carpet One of Fayetteville provided No Bid. Mrs. Edwards’ recommended that the Board consider awarding the contract to Sherwin-Williams of Fayetteville for a contract price of \$34,806. Do-Right Carpet provided a bid in the amount of \$48,670.33.
Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously accepted the bid submitted by Sherwin-Williams of Fayetteville in the amount of \$34,806.74.

April 15, 2019

ITEM 14. Soil and Water Conservation District: (Dean Morris, Director)

- A. Mr. Morris presented, for the Board's approval, Change Order #1 in the amount of \$12,196.02 with D. G. Jackson Construction, Inc. for an additional 7,719 linear feet of stream debris removal in Carvers Creek.
Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$12,196.02 with D. G. Jackson Construction Company.
- B. Mr. Morris presented, for the Board's approval, Change Order #1 in the amount of \$40,001.07 with Halls Tree Service for an additional 36,037 linear feet of stream debris removal in Harrison Creek.
Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$40,001.07 with Hall's Tree Service.
- C. Mr. Morris provided a brief overview of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with US Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). Acceptance of the MOU will provide for Bladen County and USDA-NRCS to work together by advancing the practice of teamwork, including input in the decision-making process; communicating, coordinating, and cooperating; promoting mutual respect, and sharing leadership, ownership, credit, and responsibility.
Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with US Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS).

ITEM 15. Advisory Boards Appointments:

- A. **Bladenboro Rural Fire District Committee (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously reappointed Mark Frink and Randy Sykes to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring April 4, 2022.
- B. **Cape Fear River Assembly (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously reappointed Commissioner Dowless to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring April 15, 2022.
- C. **Carvers Creek Fire Service District Committee (3):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously reappointed Kenneth Daniels, Jack Skipper, and Larry C. Council to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring April 5, 2022.
- D. **Elizabethtown Fire Service District Committee (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Emery White and Linda Gillespie to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring April 7, 2022.

ITEM 16. Advisory Boards Appointments for Consideration During May 20, 2019 Board Meeting:

- A. Animal Control Board (1)
- B. Dublin Fire District Committee (2)
- C. Kelly Dike and Drainage District (2)

ITEM 17. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of April and May 2019.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously scheduled a Special Meeting Regarding FY 2019-20 Preliminary Budget for 9am on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The meeting will be held in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located on the lower level of the Courthouse.

April 15, 2019

- C. Mr. Martin provided an overview of a Declaration of Covenants and Annexation Agreement with the Town of Elizabethtown. The agreement would allow for the County of Bladen to request voluntary annexation of the Detention and Law Enforcement Center on Smith Circle. With annexation, the cost of water and sewer service would be significantly reduced. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Declaration of Covenants and Annexation Agreement for all county facilities (Detention & Law Enforcement Center, Animal Control, Powell-Melvin Agriculture Center, and Operations/General Services) located on Smith Circle.

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Bullock to address the Board. Commissioner Bullock inquired regarding the inmate housing program. Captain Jeff Singletary indicated that a federal application was recently submitted to allow for Bladen County to be included as a federal inmate housing location. The misdemeanor program is active and averaging approximately 20 inmates monthly.

- D. Mr. Martin provided an overview of a recent request from the Lumber River Council of Governments regarding a Broadband Demand Aggregation Study. Mr. Martin indicated that funding has been identified within the FY 2018-19 Budget if the Board approved the expenditure. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved financial support in the amount of \$1,882 (Bladen County's per capita match) to fund a Broadband Demand Aggregation Study.

Chairman Peterson stated that he and Commissioners Bullock and Trivette had agreed to serve on a Commissioner's Diversity Committee. He stated that this committee would work separately from a Bladen County Employee Diversity and Inclusion Committee, but would likely work in conjunction with the employee committee from time to time.

ITEM 13. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:09pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners