

May 6, 2019

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 6, 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
- Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins
- Arthur Bullock
- Daniel Dowless
- Ashley Trivette
- Ray Britt
- Russell Priest

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Reverend Jason Lee, Dublin First Baptist Church, provided the Invocation. Guest 4-H'er Taylor Wheelless led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

Prior to approval of the Agenda, Commissioner Bullock made a motion to move for discussion the following items from Consent: Item 2H, 2018 Cycle Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (ESFRLP18) Assistance Policy, Item 2I, 2018 Cycle Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (ESFRLP18) Procurement and Disbursement Policy, and Item 2M, Memorandum of Understanding Amendment 1 with North Carolina Department of Public Safety Regarding Inmate Labor. Commissioner Cogdell provided a second. The Board unanimously moved Items 2H, 2I, and 2M from the Consent Agenda to Items 4A, 4B, and 4C for discussion and consideration.

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

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of April 15, 2019 Regular Meeting.
- C. Minutes of May 1, 2019 Special Meeting.
- D. 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 – Foreclosures	3,560.46	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	5,560.46	

Foreclosures and Attorney Invoices.

Register of Deeds

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104800.610	Contract Services	4,482.00	
104800.605	Logan Contract		2,241.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
103180.010	Interest Earnings	2,241.00	

Technical services with Evans Computer – ½ credit thru Logan Invoices.

Health/Animal Control

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105200.499.019	Rabies Vaccine	4,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	4,000.00	

Additional vaccine/drugs for Animal Shelter.

Division on Aging

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6230.499	Miscellaneous Expense	5,652.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.029	DOA-BG Senior Center	5,652.00	

Senior Center Block Grant appropriation.

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Parks and Recreation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106600.272	Concession Stand Supplies	1,697.52	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103660.012	Recreation Concessions Sales	1,697.52	

Funding for upcoming expenses.

Parks and Recreation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106600.499	Miscellaneous Expense	510.00	
106600.910.001	Credit Card Fees	70.20	
106600.803	Insurance & Utilities		339.83
106600.325	Postage	3.90	
106600.321	Telephone	335.93	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103660.000	Recreation - Insurance Fees	510.00	
103660.014	Parks and Recreation CC Fees	70.20	

Funding for upcoming expenses.

Administration/Economic Development

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106900.901	To Economic Development	200,000.00	
307200.910.001	Product Development	200,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.051	FBA-Product Development	200,000.00	
303422.002	Fm General Fund	200,000.00	

Forgivable Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial loan - Incubator #6 Construction Project. Approved 04-15-19.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.689	Energy Neighbor	450.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.031	Energy Neighbor	450.00	

Funding Authorization #10.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.689	Energy Neighbor	446.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.031	Energy Neighbor	446.00	

Funding Authorization #11.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.555	Refunds/Client	50.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143591.010	Client Refund	50.00	

Health Choice refund.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness	200.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.028	Child Abuse Awareness	200.00	

Child Abuse Awareness donations.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness	718.25	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.028	Child Abuse Awareness	718.25	

Child Abuse Awareness donations.

Department of Social Services

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

Child Abuse Awareness donations.

Department of Social Services

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

Child Abuse Awareness donations.

E. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
3/07/2019	E M S	795.00

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4/08/201	Water Department	1,525.00
5/01/2019	May-2019 Retainer	300.00
	Total	\$ 2,620.00

F. The following National Nurses' Week Proclamation:



G. Bladen County Division on Aging Senior Nutrition Program Memorandum of Understanding.

H. Moved from Consent for discussion to Item 4A. See Item 2 above.

I. Moved from Consent for discussion to Item 4B. See Item 2 above.

J. FY 2019-20 Dublin Fire Department Funding Agreement and Automatic Aid Agreement.

K. The following Resolution in Support of Continued Affiliation with Eastpointe Human Services:



L. Memorandum of Understanding with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety Regarding Inmate Labor.

M. Moved from Consent for discussion to Item 4C. See Item 2 above.

N. Vanguard Professional Staffing Temporary Staffing and Consultation Agreement.

O. The following Resolution in Support of Juvenile Crime Prevention Council Allocation Expansion:



ITEM 3. Special Recognition:

A. Chairman Peterson and the entire Board recognized Health Department Nurse Representative Debra Conner and Cape Fear Valley-Bladen County Hospital Representative Nurse Tiffany Pait. Chairman Peterson read aloud a National Nurses' Week Proclamation. He and Board members expressed appreciation to each of the nurses in attendance and presented framed Proclamations to the Bladen County Health Department and Cape Fear Valley-Bladen County Hospital representatives.

B. Chairman Peterson and the entire Board recognized Sherry Dowless upon her retirement effective May 1, 2019. Department of Social Services Director Vickie Smith expressed appreciation for Mrs. Dowless' professionalism while serving DSS as its Administrative Officer. Chairman Peterson and the entire Board presented Mrs. Dowless' a plaque in honor of her retirement following a sixteen-year tenure.

C. Chairman Peterson and the entire Board recognized Bradley Kinlaw upon his years of dedicated service to the County as Emergency Services Director. County Manager Greg Martin expressed appreciation to Mr. Kinlaw for his more than nine years of service to the County. Mr. Kinlaw expressed his deep appreciation to Board members, county fire departments, and county departments for the opportunity to work side-by-side with each individual and agency.

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ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Munn-Goins to address the Board. Commissioner Munn-Goins expressed deep appreciation to each Board member and other individuals who called, visited, attended the funeral service, or otherwise acknowledged her brother's recent passing.

- A. Commissioner Bullock requested additional information regarding a 2018 Cycle Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (ESFRLP18) Assistance Policy. He inquired regarding ownership of property should the loan go into default. Mr. Martin stated that the County of Bladen would have a deed of trust on the properties. However, County Attorney Allen Johnson stated that he would review the program and respond to Commissioner Bullock and Board members following his review.
- B. Commissioner Bullock requested additional information regarding a 2018 Cycle Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (ESFRLP18) Procurement and Disbursement Policy. Commissioner Bullock stated that he asked for both of the policies to be moved from Consent since they were dealing with the same program. He indicated his inclination to hear from County Attorney Allen Johnson on Tuesday or Wednesday. Chairman Peterson and Mr. Martin provided a brief overview of the Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool Program. Mr. Martin stated that the program provides home rehabilitation loans which are forgiven over a certain period of time. Chairman Peterson stated that Bladen County residents could apply through the Lumber River Council of Governments and the Bladen County Board of Commissioners would have an opportunity to approve specific rehabilitation projects.
- C. Commissioner Bullock inquired regarding Amendment 1 of Memorandum of Understanding with North Carolina Department of Public Safety Regarding Inmate Labor. He inquired regarding the participants in the program. He stated that it appeared that a number of municipalities participate, but not all. Chairman Peterson stated that it was up to the governing board of each municipality to choose to participate. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously approved items 4A, 2018 Cycle Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (ESFRLP18) Assistance Policy; 4B, 2018 Cycle Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (ESFRLP18) Procurement and Disbursement Policy; and 4C, Amendment 1 of Memorandum of Understanding with North Carolina Department of Public Safety Regarding Inmate Labor.

ITEM 5. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

Chairman Peterson recognized Mr. Horace Munn to address the Board. Mr. Munn inquired regarding an issue in East Arcadia related to the community center which has been utilized by Bladen Community College (BCC). Mr. Munn expressed concern regarding the appearance of the exterior of the community center. He stated that he had requested information from BCC regarding formerly planned repairs to the East Arcadia community center. He stated that BCC did have the roof and interior repaired. However, the exterior siding is in serious need of replacement. Mr. Munn estimated the cost to replace the siding to be \$15,000. He asked that BCC fund the replacement of the siding. Chairman Peterson inquired regarding a recent lease agreement between the Town of East Arcadia and BCC which does not stipulate that BCC is responsible for repairs to the building. Mr. Munn indicated that the Town of East Arcadia signed the lease agreement as a good faith effort, but felt that a gentleman's agreement regarding the replacement of exterior siding was in place.

Mr. Munn stated that a request had been submitted to the Board of Trustees and BCC President to fund a project to replace the exterior siding. He indicated that no response has been received.

Mr. Munn stated that when a recent lease agreement was signed, that funding of an exterior siding replacement project was listed in BCC's budget.

Mr. Munn expressed appreciation to the Board.

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- A. Chairman Peterson recognized North Carolina Medical Examiner's Office Representative Trish Fore, BS, D-ABMDI, Staff Development and Training Coordinator, to address the Board. Ms. Fore expressed appreciation. Ms. Fore provided a brief overview of the State Medical Examiner's office and its responsibilities. She stated that four (4) assistant medical examiners have been approved for Bladen County. She stated that Bladen County is currently one of three counties in North Carolina that operate under an elected Coroner's system. Assistant medical examiners are trained to conduct required death investigations, and complete a death certificate. Medical examiners are charged with the responsibility of death investigations regarding violent deaths, accidental deaths, and deaths that cannot be certified as a natural death.
- She provided additional information regarding the application process and requirements to serve as an assistant medical examiner. She stated that applicants are required to be either a doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or a paramedic. She stated that the Chief Medical Examiner's office conducts applicant background checks prior to being approved to serve as an assistant medical examiner.
- Commissioner Cogdell inquired regarding the requirements and responsibilities of a medical examiner and coroner. Ms. Fore stated that coroners are not authorized to complete a death certificate. However, medical examiners are authorized to complete a death certificate. Chairman Peterson reminded those in attendance that the former Coroner served as both coroner and medical examiner. Since he had served in the elected Coroner's position for a number of years, his term of service was grandfathered to serve in a dual role.
- Ms. Fore expressed appreciation.
- B. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously adopted the following Resolution Requesting General Assembly to Abolish the Coroner's Position in Bladen County and to Transition Bladen County to the Medical Examiner System:



ITEM 6. Bladen Community College: (Dr. Amanda Lee, President)

- A. Dr. Amanda Lee expressed appreciation for past years' financial and other support of Bladen Community College.
- Dr. Lee provided an overview of the state of BCC, highlighting student and various program success stories. She provided information regarding new programs and potential programs. She indicated that Early College program opened in FY 2018-19 with fifty (50) students. The number of applicants now submitting requests indicates the possibility of 100 enrolled students.
- Dr. Lee assured Board members that she and the Board of Trustees work diligently to be good stewards of public funds.
- The operating budget request reflects an 8% increase over last year's budget. Keeping in mind the new STEM facility which will be online in FY 2019-20, capital requests total more than current year's budget. Capital requests also include a number of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), student needs, and public safety associated projects.
- Dr. Lee expressed appreciation to the County Manager and Finance Officer for working so closely with her and Vice President for Finance and Administration Jay Stanley during the development of the budget request.
- Following further discussion, Dr. Lee expressed appreciation to the Board for past and ongoing support of Bladen Community College.

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ITEM 7. Bladen County Schools: (Dr. Robert Taylor, Superintendent)

- A. Dr. Taylor expressed appreciation to the Board for an opportunity to present a FY 2019-20 budget request.
Dr. Taylor and Bladen County Schools Finance Officer Sharon Penny provided an overview of the FY 2019-20 budget request.
Dr. Taylor provided an overview of expenses which are expected to increase, specifically employee benefits costs, including, but not limited to retirement rates, health insurance benefits, and planned compensation increases.
Average Daily Membership (ADM) has seemed to stabilize, resulting in an anticipated 4100 enrolled students. However, Dr. Taylor reminded the Board that Emereau Charter School would be adding a grade level (Grade 8) which may have an impact on ADM. He stated that it is anticipated that revenue paid to charter schools will increase by approximately \$123,000, for a total of approximately \$1,160,000.
Dr. Taylor also provided an overview of the capital funding request which includes \$58,000 for each of the next five years to fund the lease/purchase of surveillance cameras to be installed in all school buses.
Dr. Taylor indicated that a compensation increase also has been included for locally paid employees.
Following discussion, Dr. Taylor expressed appreciation to the Board.

Chairman Peterson briefly recessed the meeting at 7:37pm.

Chairman Peterson reconvened the meeting at 7:45pm.

ITEM 8. Healthy Bladen Kids Summer Program: (Grant Pait, Parks & Recreation Director)

- A. Mr. Pait and Health Educator Marianne Valentiner provided an overview of the 2018 Healthy Bladen Kids Program and enhancements developed for the upcoming 2019 program. The anticipated start date for the 2019 program will be June 24 (week 1), with the program ending on July 18 (week 4). Sites to be utilized are Elizabethtown, East Arcadia, Bladenboro, Tar Heel, and Clarkton.
Board members inquired regarding notifications and marketing efforts to encourage more attendance over last year's numbers. Ms. Valentiner stated that she would be contacting schools, churches, and community leaders to provide information.
The Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Pait and Ms. Valentiner for their efforts and dedication to the program.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved a 2019 Healthy Bladen Kids Summer Program.

ITEM 9. Emergency Services: (Bradley Kinlaw, Director)

- A. Mr. Kinlaw provided an overview of an Amendment to a Memorandum of Agreement with the NC Department of Public Safety-Division of Emergency Management. The amendment will provide greater flexibility in expediting and completing projects identified by the County of Bladen to benefit its residents, reduce the administrative burden on the County in managing the projects and complying with requirements of the State grants; to advise the County that Office of State Budget and Management-Disaster Recovery (OSMB-DR) has been authorized by North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) to provide program management for State DRA and State Hazard Mitigation (HM) programs, and to advise the County that OSMB-DR will provide any technical assistance needed by the County and any of its contractors in completing the DRA and HM projects.
Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved an Amendment to a

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Memorandum of Agreement with the NC Department of Public Safety-
Division of Emergency Management.

ITEM 10. Revenue Department: (Renee Davis, Tax Administrator/Assessor)

- A. Mrs. Davis provided information regarding a recently received bid for the purchase of County-owned property (PIN #1244-0022-2509) located at 1226 Sarah Peterson Road. She stated the investment to the County currently is \$7,950 on the .97 acre tract which carries a tax assessment value of \$29,570. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously accepted a bid in the amount of \$7,950 for county-owned property (PIN #1244-0022-2509) located on Sarah Peterson Road. By accepting the bid, the upset bid process is initiated.

ITEM 11. Health and Human Services Agency: (Terri Duncan, Director)

- A. Ms. Duncan provided an overview of a Professional Services Agreement with Columbus County Health Department designed to provide medical/clinical services to Bladen County patients at Bladen County Health Department. She stated that the term of the agreement is from May 6, 2019 through June 30, 2019. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved a Professional Services Agreement with Columbus County Health Department.

ITEM 12. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During May 20, 2019 Meeting:

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

ITEM 13. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During June 17, 2019 Meeting:

- A. Adult Care Home Advisory Board (1)
- B. Ammon Fire Service District Committee (3)
- C. Elizabethtown Airport/Economic Development Commission (2)
- D. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (3)
- E. Local Emergency Planning Committee (7)
- F. Lumber River Workforce Development Board (2)
- G. Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment (5)
- H. Recreation Committee (4)
- I. Tobermory Fire Service District Committee (2)

ITEM 14. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of May and June 2019.
- B. Mr. Martin inquired of the Board to consider scheduling a Special Meeting regarding FY 2019-20 Budget. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously scheduled a Special Meeting regarding FY 2019-20 Budget for 9am on Tuesday, May 14, 2019. The meeting location will be determined.

Chairman Peterson provided a brief update regarding a meeting scheduled with permitting officials to view the breaches in the Kelly levee. He also stated that Mr. Martin is working to secure an engineer to assist with an engineering design so that an Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) application can be completed on behalf of the Lyon Swamp Drainage and Levee District.

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Innovative Readiness Training is a Department of Defense military training opportunity, which provides key services with lasting benefits for communities.

ITEM 13. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

Chairman Peterson recognized Kenneth Clark to address the Board. Mr. Clark provided a brief overview of the Coroner's activities and thanked the Board and Bladen County citizens for the trust placed in him and his abilities to serve as Deputy Coroner under Hubert Kinlaw for many years, and most recently as the elected Coroner. He expressed appreciation to the Board as well.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:12pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners