

May 18, 2020

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 18, 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
Daniel Dowless
Russell Priest
Arthur Bullock

Attending electronically:

Ashley Trivette
Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins

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:

The Consent Items were unanimously approved upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Gooden. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of the April 6, 2020.
- C. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Legal	1,000.00	
104500.192.002	Professional Foreclosures	2,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103170.040	Sale of Assets	3,000.00	

Foreclosures/Attorney Invoices.

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Legal	2,000.00	
104500.192.002	Professional Foreclosures	8,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103170.040	Sale of Assets	10,000.00	

Foreclosures/Attorney Invoices.

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	1,249.60	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	1,249.60	

VIN #7889

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	2,514.06	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	2,514.06	

VIN #7688

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	1,586.94	
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	1,364.95	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	1,586.94	
103190.011	Insurance Claims	1,364.95	

VIN #4143 and VIN #1789

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Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	292.40	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	292.40	

VIN #6243

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	2,103.30	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	2,103.30	

VIN #2736

Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.200	Supplies	16,078.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	16,078.00	

Disposed cases placed in Evidence returned to Sheriff.

Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.200.016	Supplies – Surplus	9,200.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103270.018	Sheriff – HELO	9,200.00	

Sale of Helo parts.

Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.740	Capital Outlay – Equipment	14,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103260.026	Jail – Federal Reimbursement	14,000.00	

Purchase new fingerprint scanner & related equipment to replace unserviceable unit.

Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.741	Capital Outlay – Vehicles	27,994.50	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	27,994.50	

Insurance pay out to replace total loss patrol car.

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 to be used for maintenance.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105900.190	Professional Services		1,500.00
105900.353	Copier Maintenance	1,000.00	
105900.499	Miscellaneous Expense	500.00	
105900.900.001	Credit Card Fees	400.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103560.015	Credit Card Fees	400.00	

To cover monthly balance.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105900.5905.200	Supplies	10,147.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103330.061	DHHS – Environmental Health	10,147.00	

Additional State Grant.

Library

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106700.200	Supplies & Materials	1,240.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	1,240.00	

Donation from the Community Foundation of the New River Valley.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.120	Salaries		600.00
146100.6160.590	Special Foster Care ALL County	300.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.280	SSBG-Federal		300.00

Medical bill for a foster care child- all county expenses.

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Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness	157.27	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.028	Child Abuse Awareness	157.27	

Donations for Child Abuse Awareness.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness	314.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.028	Child Abuse Awareness	314.00	

Donations for Child Abuse Awareness.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness	337.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.028	Child Abuse Awareness	337.00	

Donations for Child Abuse Awareness.

Water Construction Fund

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
234700.192	Professional Services – Legal	18,705.00	
234700.611.011	Contract Services – Rivenbark	2,489,863.00	
234700.611.020	Contract Services – Bills Well Drilling	803,567.88	
234700.611.047	Contract Services – Fortiline	2,115,388.29	
234700.745	Interest	101,000.00	
234700.990	Contingency	323,250.83	
234700.197.002	Tech Services	25,550.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
233190.014	Loan Proceeds (Truist)	4,997,000.00	
233190.017	USDA Grant	1,000,000.00	
233190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation		119,675.00

Phase IV Water District.

D. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
4/03/2020	E M S	6,900.00
4/08/2020	BARTS	500.00
4/14/2020	April-2020 Retainer	300.00
5/01/2020	Governing Board	200.00
5/04/2020	May-2020 Retainer	300.00
5/11/2020	Governing Board	300.00
	Total	\$ 8,500.00

- E. Tax Releases No. 3-20, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.
- F. Tax Releases No. 4-20, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.
- G. Eastpointe FY 2019-20 State Funded Contract Amendment #1.
- H. Review of March 2020 Financial Dashboard.
- I. Review of March 2020 Adult Medicaid Audit Results.
- J. Review of April 2020 Adult Medicaid Audit Results.
- K. Independent Contractor Agreement with Johnson Law Firm to Review Resources to Assist in Determining Long Term Care Eligibility.
- L. Acceptance of Bid Submitted by Blue Ocean Partners in the Amount of \$6,900 for County-Owned Property (PIN Nos: 1228-0086-3115 & 1228-0097-1338) Located off Charlie Moore Road, Whites Creek Township.
- M. NC Statewide Emergency Management Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement.
- N. Contract and Specifications for 2022 Property Revaluation with Piner Appraisal in the Amount of \$565,000.
- O. Bladen County Schools Capital Outlay Request in the Amount of \$304,032.91.
- P. NC Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund Application in the Amount of \$203,450 for the Benefit of West Bladen High School.
- Q. NC Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund Application in the Amount of \$26,747 for the Benefit of East Bladen High School.

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- R. United States Department of Agriculture Lease Amendment #4 for the Bladen County USDA Service Center for the Period of August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2023.
- S. Non-Warranty Perpetual Easement to John Mitchell (PIN No. 2229-0036-2115)

ITEM 3. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

- A. Communicating telephonically from the Bladen Community College (BCC) Conference Room, BCC President Dr. Amanda Lee expressed appreciation to the Board for past, current and ongoing financial support of Bladen Community College (BCC). She stated that the College is in good standing, and provided a brief overview of planned program enhancements. She reviewed a FY 2020-21 budget proposal. She introduced Trustee Chairman Dennis Troy and Chief Finance Officer Jay Stanley as well. Chairman Troy expressed appreciation for ongoing support of the college, its activities and students.
Chairman Britt expressed appreciation to Dr. Lee, Chairman Troy, and Mr. Stanley for their stewardship.

ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Peterson to address the Board. Commissioner Peterson provided an update regarding EMS utilizing the Lisbon Fire Department location. He stated that a rescue unit has been stationed at the Lisbon Fire Department following conversations and better understanding of responsibilities and expectations. Commissioner Peterson expressed appreciation to the fire service district committee and the fire department's willingness to provide a location for a Bladen County rescue unit.

ITEM 5. Public Hearings:

- A. Chairman Britt opened a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a forgivable loan in the amount of \$926,775.33 to Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial to assist in the construction of incubator #5. Forgiveness of the loan will result in an incentive in the form of the reduced cost of a four-year lease with multiple three-year options to Anthem Displays.
Chairman Britt declared closed the Public Hearing.
- B. Chairman Britt opened a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a forgivable loan in the amount of \$201,949.10 to Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial to assist in the construction of incubator #6. Forgiveness of the loan will result in an incentive in the form of the reduced cost of a three-year lease with multiple three-year options to Westwood Robotic Technologies.
Chairman Britt declared closed the Public Hearing.

Due to COVID-19 and the meeting being a virtual meeting, public comments will be received through no less than twenty-four (24) hours following the adjournment of the Board of Commissioners' meeting. No action was considered or requested at the close of the Public Hearings. Board action will be requested during the June 1, 2020 Board meeting.

ITEM 6. Finance Office: (Lisa Coleman, Finance Officer)

- A. Mrs. Coleman recognized Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams and Company CPA Bryon Scott to address the Board telephonically. Mr. Scott expressed appreciation to the Board and the opportunity to review the FY 2018-19 audit. 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.
Following brief discussion, the Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Scott.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved the FY 2018-19 Audit as presented.

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Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

- C. Mrs. Coleman reviewed a Financial Dashboard for the ten-month period ending April 30, 2020.
- D. Mrs. Coleman provided an overview of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) appropriation in the amount of \$782,398. She stated this funding provided by the CARES Act would assist in offsetting COVID-19 expenses. She also shared that municipalities have an opportunity to request reimbursement for specific COVID-19 expenses. She indicated that municipalities had been invited to attend a meeting hosted by the County and were encouraged to submit plans by June 1, 2020. She stated that several municipalities had attended. The municipalities that were not represented will be contacted in order to have an opportunity to participate and submit a plan. Following brief discussion, the Board expressed appreciation to Mrs. Coleman.

ITEM 7. Bladen County Water District:

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously entered session as Bladen County Water District Board of Directors. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.
- B. Resolution Providing for the Issuance of a \$4,997,000 Water System Revenue Bond Anticipation Note of the Bladen County Water District.
- C. Phase IV Water Construction Project Ordinance.
- D. Water System Expansion Project Fund Agreement in the Amount of \$4,997,000 along with Supporting Documentation.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved Items 7B, 7C, and 7D. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

- E. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously exited session as Bladen County Water District Board of Directors. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

ITEM 8. Census Update: (Greg Elkins, Planning Director)

- A. Mr. Elkins provided an update regarding response to the 2020 Census. He stated that as of May 9, Bladen County ranks 86 in the state, with 39.6% of households responding. He stated that due to COVID-19, events which the Complete Count Committee planned to attend had been canceled. Coloring books have been purchased and shared with kindergarten and first-graders during meal deliveries since schools were closed. Mr. Elkins encouraged all Bladen County residents to complete the online 2020 Census, explaining that home address is sufficient to locate information. Mr. Elkins also stated that enumerators would soon be in the area, visiting households. He further stated personal protective equipment would be issued to census workers. The Board expressed appreciation for the update and also encouraged citizens to self-report.

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

- A. Dr. Duncan provided a brief overview of a FY 2020-21 Letter of Agreement with Bladen County Schools. She stated that the agreement would provide for understanding, giving directions, and establishing specific responsibilities related to the School Health Program. During the Health and Human Services Advisory Board meeting held on May 11, 2020, committee members voted to recommend this agreement to the Board of Commissioners.

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Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved a FY 2020-21 Letter of Agreement with Bladen County Schools. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

- B. Dr. Duncan briefly reviewed a Medical Service Agreement with East Coast Migrant Head Start. She stated that the agreement will allow for Bladen County Health Department staff to assist in making an assessment for each newly enrolled child, to assure that age appropriate preventive and primary healthcare which includes vaccines are up-to-date, including physicals, dental, and mental health. During the Health and Human Services Advisory Board meeting held on May 11, 2020, committee members voted to recommend this agreement to the Board of Commissioners.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved a FY 2020-21 Letter of Agreement with Bladen County Schools. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

- C. Dr. Duncan provided an update regarding coronavirus. She stated that protocol has recently been updated to allow for more testing. More positive cases are being identified due to increased testing. She also encouraged individuals to remember the three W's – Wear face covering; Wait six feet apart, and Wash hands.

Following discussion, the Board expressed appreciation.

ITEM 10. Emergency Services: (Nathan Dowless, Director)

Mr. Dowless provided an update regarding COVID-19 related issues. He stated that personal protection equipment (PPE) is available, with the exception of gowns. He further stated that he has located a distributor in the Wilmington area that has access to PPE. He is currently in the process of setting up the County to be able to purchase PPE from this distributor.

- A. Mr. Dowless provided an update regarding an amended storm water drainage study which initially would have benefited Bladenboro. He stated that now all municipalities in the county were invited to participate. He shared that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was published. Of the respondents, LKC Engineering submitted the successful RFQ. Mr. Dowless stated that this grant would assist in funding an engineering study for each of the participating municipalities.

Following brief discussion, the Board expressed appreciation.

ITEM 11. Advisory Board Appointments:

- A. **Bladenboro Fire District Committee (3):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously appointed Robert Hester to a three-year term of service; reappointed Alvin Singletary to a three-year term of service; and, waiving the rules on term limits, reappointed Greg Lennon to a three-year term of service, with all terms expiring April 4, 2023. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

- B. **Dublin Fire District Committee (3):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board unanimously reappointed Ronnie Skinner to a three-year term of service, and, waiving the rules on term limits, reappointed Dennis Troy and Jason Britt to three-year terms of service, with all terms expiring May 19, 2023. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

- C. **Keep Bladen Beautiful (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously reappointed Billie P. Hall to a three-year term of service with the term expiring December 31, 2022. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

- D. **Library Board (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously tabled an appointment to a

future meeting. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

- E. **White Lake Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustment (EJT):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously reappointed Stephanie Ensminger to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring May 20, 2023. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

ITEM 12. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During a Future Meeting- June 2020 Term Expirations:

- A. Animal Control Board (4)
- B. Carvers Creek Fire District Committee (2)
- C. Hickory Grove Fire Service District Committee (2)
- D. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (8)
- E. Kelly Fire Service District Committee (3)
- F. Local Emergency Planning Committee (6)
- G. Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments (1)
- H. Recreation Committee (4)
- I. Southeastern Community and Family Services (1)
- J. Tar Heel Fire Service District Committee (2)
- K. Tobermory Fire Service District Committee (2)
- L. White Lake Fire Service District Committee (2)
- M. White Oak Fire Service District Committee (2)

ITEM 13. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin recognized the following employees upon their Years of Service, as follows:

Name	Department	Years of Service
Greta Jackson	Library	5
Kelsey Edwards	Library	5
Megan Thompson	D S S	5
Sheresse Becton	D S S	5
Mya Cruz	D S S	5
Debra Smith	D S S	5
Amanda Sykes	D S S	15
Matthew Long	Sheriff's Office	5
Christopher Brisson	Sheriff's Office	5
Donna Parnell	Sheriff's Office-Detention	10
Bruce Atkins	Solid Waste	5
Heather Ellis	E M S	10
Mary McKiver	Division on Aging-BARTS	20

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Martin congratulated each of the employees and stated that each of the recognized employees had already received their certificates and monetary award upon their Years of Service.

- B. Mr. Martin reported that the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) had announced a change to a virtual County Assembly Day event scheduled for 9:30am until noon on Tuesday, May 20, 2020.
- C. Mr. Martin inquired of the Board to consider scheduling a Special Meeting regarding FY 2020-21 Budget. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously scheduled a Special Meeting for Monday, June 8, 2020. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken. A specific time will be announced.
- D. Mr. Martin presented draft correspondence which is voicing support of the local NC Department of Transportation maintenance office. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously approved correspondence in support of the local NCDOT maintenance office to be submitted to Senators

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Britt and Rabon, and to Representative Brisson. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

- E. Mr. Martin provided an overview of a recently received Golden LEAF Foundation Grantee Acknowledgement and Agreement in the amount of \$800,000 related to the Driving Pad project application. He reminded the Board that the US Economic Development Agency (EDA) did not fund the project, which would have provided funding to complete the entire project to be constructed at the Bladen County Training Center. However, EDA has indicated that Bladen County could resubmit a project application by June 12, 2020 for consideration through a recent CARES Act appropriation through EDA. He further stated that if an alternate funding stream could not be identified, that the Golden LEAF Foundation could be declined. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved a Golden LEAF Foundation Grantee Acknowledgement and Agreement in the amount of \$800,000 related to the Driving Pad project application. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.
- F. Mr. Martin reviewed a proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure for the Bladen County Board of Commissioners regarding the naming of community assets. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved the following amendment:
When initially requested, the Board shall receive, for information only, memorial or honorarium naming of community assets (roadways, bridges, other structures) not owned by the County. The Board shall schedule a Public Hearing to be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Public Hearing will provide an opportunity for citizens' comments prior to Board consideration of the naming request. The Board may consider action regarding a naming request at the next scheduled meeting following the Public Hearing.
Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken
- G. Mr. Martin provided an update regarding the White Oak Levee engineering study progress. He shared information recently received from Catlin Engineer Robin Austin reflecting a schedule of activities since March 1, 2020. He also discussed interest presented by the Mountains to the Sea Trail organization in using the levee for a segment of the trail. He stated that Ms. Austin indicated that, weather permitting, that geotechnical drilling would commence the week of May 22 and would take three weeks to complete.
- H. Mr. Martin inquired of the Board consideration to reopen Bladen County offices to the public on June 1, 2020. Following discussion regarding specific steps, safety precautions, safety equipment, the Board did not take action. Mr. Martin indicated that he would be glad to provide an update to the Board members in the upcoming week.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm. Due to Commissioners Munn-Goins and Trivette participating remotely, a roll call voice vote was taken.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Ray Britt, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners