

**June 4, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, June 4, 2018 in the Commissioner’s Room located on the lower level of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

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

Excused: Chairman Ray Britt

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

Vice Chairman Cogdell presided in Chairman Britt’s absence.

**ITEM 1.** Reverend Larry Hayes, Good News Baptist Church of Bladenboro, 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 Bullock, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of May 21, 2018 Regular Meeting.
- C. Budget Amendments, as follows:

**Tax Administration**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>104500.192</b>	Professional Services Legal	3,400.00	
<b>104500.192.002</b>	Professional Services Foreclosures	6,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.050</b>	Fund Balance Appropriation	9,400.00	

Foreclosures.

**Tax Administration**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>104500.192</b>	Professional Services Legal	5,500.00	
<b>104500.192.002</b>	Professional Services Foreclosures	10,050.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.050</b>	Fund Balance Appropriation	15,550.00	

Foreclosures.

**Register of Deeds**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>104800.353</b>	Copier Maintenance	650.00	
<b>104800.499.003</b>	Miscellaneous Expense-Excise Tax	25,644.00	
<b>104800.499.009</b>	Miscellaneous Expense-Domestic Violence	1,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103160.011</b>	Register of Deeds-Revenue Stamps	24,752.00	
<b>103160.016</b>	Register of Deeds-Online Charges	2,542.00	

To reflect expense associated with Register of Deeds revenues.

**Motor Pool**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>105010.357</b>	M/R Vehicles	6,979.82	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.011</b>	Insurance Claims	6,979.82	

Settlement for 2016 Dodge Charger VIN #0589.

**Division on Aging**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>106200.352</b>	M/R Equipment		1,650.00
<b>106200.499</b>	Miscellaneous Expense		19,504.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103530.031</b>	DOA-Transportation BG		21,154.00

To correct funding for FY 2017-2018 BG.

June 4, 2018

**Parks & Recreation**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>106600.499.008</b>	Deputies		2,500.00
<b>106600.499</b>	Miscellaneous Expense	2,500.00	
<b>106600.272</b>	Concession Stand Supplies	600.00	
<b>106600.493</b>	Refunds	75.00	
<b>106600.270</b>	Advertising		75.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103660.012</b>	Recreation Concession Sales	600.00	

End of Year.

**Soil Conservation – Stream Debris Removal**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>106401.981.000</b>	Browns Creek	82,000.00	
<b>106401.981.001</b>	Harrison Creek	90,000.00	
<b>106401.981.002</b>	Ellis Creek	96,096.00	
<b>106401.981.003</b>	Carvers Creek	58,080.00	
<b>106401.981.004</b>	Cypress Creek	54,912.00	
<b>106401.981.005</b>	White Oak Canal	58,999.00	
<b>106401.981.006</b>	Brown Marsh Swamp	102,432.00	
<b>106401.981.007</b>	Horse Pen Creek	51,294.00	
<b>106401.981.008</b>	Slade Swamp	16,000.00	
<b>106401.981.009</b>	Bryant Swamp	53,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103430.005</b>	Stream Debris Removal Project	662,813.00	

NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation Stream Debris Removal project – ending 12/31/2019.

**Education**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>106910.887</b>	Public School Building Fund	413,750.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103110.070</b>	Public School Building Fund	413,750.00	

Budget for Lottery Funds from the Public School Building Fund.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>146100.689</b>	Energy Neighbor	38.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>143531.031</b>	Energy Neighbor	38.00	

Funding Authorization #12.

**Single Family Rehab – DR17**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>784991.621.001</b>	Soft Costs	30,000.00	
<b>784991.621.002</b>	Hard Costs	114,850.00	
<b>784991.960.001</b>	Admin	5,150.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>783970.025</b>	SRF-DR17	150,000.00	

Setup of the Essential Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool – Disaster Recovery for 2017.

**D. County Attorney Invoices.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>
4/24/18	Administration	\$ 2,525.00
4/26/18	Emergency Services	\$ 525.00
6/01/18	Retainer for Jun-18	\$ 300.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,350.00</b>

- E. Public Hearing for 6:30pm on Monday, June 18, 2018 to Receive Comments Regarding FY 2018-19 Proposed Appropriation for Economic Development
- F. Tax Releases No. 4-18, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.
- G. Extension of Terms through September 2019 for Private Sale of County-Owned Property.
- H. Deny Strata Solar LLC 2018 Application for Partial Property Tax Exclusion.
- I. Southeastern Community & Family Services, Inc. Lease Agreement for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.
- J. Request for No Cost Extension Regarding an Agreement with East Carolina University Related to the Bladen County Parks & Recreation Master Plan Project.
- K. Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act Grant Agreement for the Benefit of Bladen County Division on Aging.

**June 4, 2018**

**ITEM 3. Public Hearing:**

Vice Chairman Cogdell declared open the Public Hearing to received comments regarding the proposed FY 2018-19 Budget. A Public Hearing Notice was published in a newspaper of general circulation on Friday, May 25, 2018. Following is a copy of the Public Hearing Notice:



No one in attendance addressed the Board.  
Vice Chairman Cogdell declared closed the Public Hearing.

**ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:**

No one brought an item of interest for discussion.

**ITEM 5. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

**ITEM 6. Bladen County Schools: (Sharon Penny, Finance Officer; Ernest Nelon, Maintenance Director)**

A. Mrs. Penny and Mr. Nelon provided a brief overview of capital outlay items. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously approved a Capital Outlay request in the amount of \$33,073.96.

**ITEM 7. Economic Development: (Chuck Heustess, Director)**

A. Mr. Heustess provided an update regarding a proposed shell building construction project. He reminded the Board that it has been approximately 3-4 years since a speculative building project has been completed. Currently, there are no available industrial buildings in Bladen County to attract manufacturing or businesses. He stated that only two (2) referrals have been received during 2017-18.

Mr. Heustess provided details of the proposed shell building. The building is designed for 26,490 total square feet, with 2,490 square feet for office space. It is planned for floors to be installed. It would be located in the Elizabethtown Industrial Park, adjacent to the runway. He shared that the Economic Development Committee (EDC) and Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial Executive Board (BBAI) have both approved the speculative building design. He stated his expectation that the building would be completed by early 2019.

Mr. Heustess stated that Four County EMC and BBAI have both indicated willingness and ability to offer no or low cost loans to assist with the construction project.

Mr. Heustess provided an overview of the proposed funding of the construction project, as follows:

The Bladen County Board of Commissioners will consider lending \$900,000 to Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc. (BBAI). The purpose of the loan will be to assist in funding the construction of an approximately 26,490 square foot speculative industrial building in the Elizabethtown Airport Industrial Park. BBAI will be responsible for securing all additional financing required for the construction of the facility. The loan may be forgiven in whole or in part, up to the amount of the economic impact over the first five years of the project's operations in the facility. The loan will be at two percent (2%) per annum, and will be payable upon the lease or sale of the facility to one or more companies

which will fully occupy the facility, unless the Board of Commissioners forgives the loan in whole or in part.

- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously scheduled a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a proposed shell building construction project and its funding for 6:30pm on Monday, June 18, 2018.

**ITEM 8. Health and Human Services: (Wayne Raynor, Director)**

- A. Mr. Raynor provided an overview of a Professional Services Agreement and Business Associate Agreement with Bladen County Healthcare, LLC, d/b/a Cape Fear Valley-Bladen County Hospital for Family Nurse Practitioner Services. He stated that since the Bladen County Nurse Practitioner position is currently vacant, this agreement would secure continuity of services until the position is filled.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved a Professional Services Agreement and Business Associate Agreement with Bladen County Healthcare, LLC, d/b/a Cape Fear Valley-Bladen County Hospital for Family Nurse Practitioner Services.

- B. Mr. Raynor provided a brief overview of an Agreement with Robeson County Health Department regarding a Minority Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP). He stated that the program provides framework to identify and employ a trained lifestyle coach to recruit, implement, and collect data for a diabetes prevention class to be held in Bladen County.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved an Agreement with Robeson County Health Department regarding a Minority Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP).

**ITEM 9. Department of Social Services: (Vickie Smith, Director)**

- A. Mrs. Smith provided an overview of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) regarding mandates of law enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly and in recognition of possible amendments by the General Assembly. Mrs. Smith stated that all 100 counties would be required to acknowledge and accept the MOU as presented. She stated that the MOU is of no cost to the County. However, she stated that performance requirements for each of the programs, which include Child Welfare, Foster Care, Child Support, Energy, Work First, Food and Nutrition Services, Adult Protective Services, Special Assistance, and Child Care Subsidy, are extremely aggressive and may be unattainable.

Mrs. Smith stated that the Memorandum of Understanding is designed to cover FY 2018-19, with an understanding that the first six months of the agreement is to be viewed as a trial period to receive performance evaluations in order to address any identified issues. The NCDHHS would not initiate any actions set forth related to the mandated performance requirements until January 1, 2019.

The Board expressed appreciation for the detailed information regarding the Memorandum of Understanding.

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

- A. Mrs. Davis presented a bid in the amount of \$4,000 for county-owned property (PIN #0027834, .46 acres) located at 220 Sand Pit Road. She stated that the expense to the County is currently \$6,600.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board declined the bid submitted by Mr. Leon Cromartie in the amount of \$4,000 for county-owned property (PIN #0027834) located at 220 Sand Pit Road.

June 4, 2018

**ITEM 11. Soil and Water Conservation: (Dean Morris, Director)**

- A. In Mr. Morris' absence, Mr. Martin provided a brief overview of an Amended Contract with the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Soil & Water Conservation. He stated that the Scope of Work had been amended to include additional stream segments not originally identified in the Stream Debris Removal Program.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved the Amended Contract with NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Soil & Water Conservation.

**ITEM 12. Advisory Board Appointments:**

- A. **Keep Bladen Beautiful (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously tabled an appointment for an East Bladen High School representative.
- B. **Kelly Water Dike and Drainage District Committee (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously reappointed Aaron Robinson to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring May 5, 2021.

**ITEM 11. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration at June 18, 2018 Meeting:**

- A. **Adult Home Care Community Advisory Committee (2)**  
B. **Ammon Fire Service District Committee (2)**  
C. **Animal Control Board (4)**  
D. **Bladen Community College Board of Trustees (2)**  
E. **Eastpointe MCO Advisory Committee (1)**  
F. **Hickory Grove Fire District Committee (3)**  
G. **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (4)**  
H. **Kelly Fire Service District Committee (2)**  
I. **Local Emergency Planning Committee (7)**  
J. **Lumber River Workforce Development Board (1)**  
K. **Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments (3)**  
L. **Recreation Committee (4)**  
M. **Tar Heel Fire Service District Committee (3)**  
N. **Tobermory Fire Service District Committee (1)**  
O. **White Lake Fire Service District Committee (3)**  
P. **White Oak Fire Service District Committee (3)**

**ITEM 14. County Manager: (Greg Martin)**

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of June and July 2018. Mr. Martin stated that the regularly scheduled July Board meeting may need to be rescheduled, as the National Association of Counties annual conference has created a conflict, as several Commissioners plan to attend the conference. He stated that a request to move the meeting date to July 9, 2018 will be requested at the upcoming June 18, 2018 meeting.

**ITEM 15. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:13pm.

ATTEST:

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Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

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Ray Britt, Chairman  
Bladen County Board of Commissioners