A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, June 18, 2018 in the Commissioner’s Room located on the lower level of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:
Ray Britt, Chairman
G. Michael Cogdell, Vice Chairman
Charles R. Peterson
Arthur Bullock
Daniel Dowless
David R. Gooden
Russell Priest
Ashley Trivette

Excused: Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Reverend Larry Hayes, Good News Baptist Church of Bladenboro, provided the Invocation.

Guest Zoey Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board added consideration of adopting a FY 2018-19 Budget under Item 4A, Matters of Interest to Commissioners.

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

A. Amended Agenda.
B. Minutes of May 21, 2018 Regular Meeting.
C. Minutes of May 31, 2018 Special Meeting.
D. Minutes of June 4, 2018 Special Meeting.
E. Minutes of June 4, 2018 Regular Meeting.
F. Minutes of June 6, 2018 Special Meeting.
G. Budget Amendments, as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sheriff</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
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<tr>
<td>105100.200.016</td>
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<td>103270.018</td>
<td>Sheriff – HELO</td>
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To cover expenses with ongoing operations.

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<th>Division on Aging</th>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>103510.048</td>
<td>DDA – SHIIP Grant</td>
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SHIIP grant funds for supplies and travel.

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Grant from Community Foundation of the New River Valley.

<table>
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To cover cost associated with job descriptions.

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<th>Service Agencies</th>
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<th>Decrease</th>
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<tr>
<td>103190.010</td>
<td>Miscellaneous Revenue</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
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</table>

To cover cost shared with White Lake and Town of Elizabethtown for water discoloration.
ITEM 3. Public Hearings:

A. Chairman Britt declared open the Public Hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed FY 2018-19 Economic Development Budget. A Public Hearing Notice was published in a newspaper of general circulation on Friday, June 1, 2018. Following is a copy of the Public Hearing Notice and Affidavit of Publication:

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

B. Chairman Britt declared open the Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a potential loan to Bladen’s Bloom’ Agri-Industrial, Inc. to assist in funding the construction of an approximately 26,490 square foot speculative building in the Elizabethtown Airport Industrial Park. A Public Hearing Notice was published in a newspaper of general circulation on Friday, June 1, 2018. Following is a copy of the Public Hearing Notice and Affidavit of Publication:

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

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously closed the Public Hearing portion of the meeting.
ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Commissioner Gooden was recognized to address the Board. He shared an Agricultural Support Resolution with the Board. He stated that Bladen County’s largest industries and tax payers are associated with agriculture and agribusiness. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board unanimously adopted the following Agricultural Support Resolution:

The Board directed the Clerk to the Board to submit an adopted Resolution to Bladen County’s legislative delegation and to Governor Cooper.

Commissioner Bullock was recognized to address the Board. He shared that he had recently been elected as Chairman of the Southeastern Community and Family Services, Inc. Board of Directors. He asked the Board for support in his new role as Chairman.

A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously adopted the following FY 2018-19 Budget Ordinance, which includes a 2% increase to Bladen County Schools (approximately $134,000) and a one-time appropriation of $251,503:

Chairman Britt expressed appreciation to Board members, Department Heads, County Manager and staff for the hard work necessary to develop the FY 2018-19 Budget. He stated that he was pleased that the Board and staff identified revenue to be able to provide a 3% compensation increase to county employees, following the implementation of an extensive compensation study which was fully funded in the FY 2017-18 Budget.

Chairman Britt reminded the Board and those in attendance of possible challenges to meet obligations based on on-going issues involving three large property tax payers; Chemours, Smithfield, and White Lake property owners.

ITEM 5. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

Mrs. Cynthia Chisholm was recognized to address the Board. She discussed seven (7) teachers who were terminated very near the end of the school year. She stated that they were informed approximately four (4) days before the effective date. She indicated that the Bladen County Board of Education members encouraged individuals to address concerns to the Board of County Commissioners for an increase of $378,000 in order to retain those teacher positions; or to request that the Board of Commissioners allow the Board of Education to transfer $378,000 from capital outlay to cover personnel costs. Chairman Britt asked Mr. Martin to address Mrs. Chisholm’s request. Mr. Martin stated that the Board of Education could transfer up to 10% of the capital outlay balance to current expense. However, the Board of County Commissioners would have to approve any transfer between 10%-25% but there had been no such request received. Bladen County Schools Finance Officer Sharon Penny stated that in an emergency situation, the Board of Education could transfer funds from capital outlay for other purposes, for issues unforeseeable or unforeseen. Commissioner Peterson voiced his concerns regarding the Board of Education directing individuals to make requests of the Board of Commissioners. He stated that the seven teacher positions were eliminated due to state funding reductions and the closure of Booker T. Washington School.
ITEM 6. Bladen County Schools: (Sharon Penny, Finance Officer)

A. Mrs. Penny provided a brief overview of capital outlay items. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously approved a Capital Outlay request in the amount of $140,070.88.

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

A. Mrs. Coleman reviewed a financial dashboard for the eleven-month period ending May 31, 2018. Mrs. Coleman also provided to each of the Board members a final accounting regarding the detention and law enforcement construction project.

ITEM 8. Department of Social Services: (Vickie Smith, Director and Wayne Raynor, HHSA Director)

A. Mrs. Smith provided an overview of a Signing Statement related to a FY 2018-19 North Carolina Department of Health and Human Service (NCDHHS) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She stated that Craven County had developed the Signing Statement which addressed concerns of extremely aggressive performance measures. Mr. Raynor stated that a number of counties had begun researching the possibility of obtaining professional liability insurance to assist with offsetting penalties which could be assessed by the state if performance measures are not met. He also stated that if Bladen County didn’t sign the MOU, the Board of Commissioners would be breaking a law. County Attorney Allen Johnson agreed with Mr. Raynor’s assessment.

B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board accepted a Signing Statement regarding a NC Department of Health and Human Services Memorandum of Understanding, on a vote of seven (7) AYES (Bullock, Cogdell, Priest, Gooden, Britt, Dowless, Trivette) to one (1) NO (Peterson). The Signing Statement will not be returned with the MOU. However, the County Attorney will provide a cover letter to address the County’s concerns and position.

C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board approved, under protest, a FY 2018-19 NCDHHS Memorandum of Understanding, on a vote of seven (7) AYES (Bullock, Cogdell, Priest, Gooden, Britt, Dowless, Trivette) to one (1) NO (Peterson).

ITEM 9. Advisory Board Appointments:

A. Adult Home Care Community Advisory Committee (2): Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously tabled appointments.

B. Ammon Fire Service District Committee (2): Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board unanimously tabled appointments.

C. Animal Control Board (2): Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board, upon a vote of seven (7) AYES (Peterson, Trivette, Priest, Gooden, Cogdell, Dowless) to one (1) NO (Bullock), approved the reappointment of Kelly Brisson and Donna Taylor to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring June 30, 2021.

D. Bladen Community College Board of Trustees (2): Commissioner Gooden made a motion to appoint Erin Smith. Commissioner Bullock made a motion to appoint Sharon McDowell. Commissioner Peterson made a motion to appoint Chairman Ray Britt as the Commissioner’s designee and Barbara Knight. Following discussion, Commissioner Gooden’s and Commissioner Bullock’s motions died for lack of a second. Commissioner Trivette provided a second to Commissioner Peterson’s motion to appoint Chairman Britt and Barbara Knight to four-year terms, with the terms expiring June 30, 2022. The
appointments were approved upon a vote of five (5) AYES (Peterson, Trivette, Britt, Priest, Dowless) to three (3) NOES (Bullock, Gooden, Cogdell).

E. Eastpointe MCO Advisory Committee (1): Commissioner Gooden made a motion to reappoint Emery White. No second was provided. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously tabled an appointment until better understanding if an elected official should be appointed.

F. Hickory Grove Fire District Committee (3): Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, reappointed Annette Smith, Ricky Johnson, and Willis Ray Edge to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring June 30, 2021.

G. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (4): Commissioner Bullock made a motion to appoint Victoria Corbett. The motion failed on a lack of a second. JCPC Chairman Larry Hayes voiced his concern regarding continuity of membership. Following discussion regarding mandated “positions” to be appointed, Commissioner Peterson made a motion to table appointments. Commissioner Trivette provided a second. The Board unanimously tabled appointments until additional information is received.

H. Kelly Fire Service District Committee (2): Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Charles Ridenhour and Bobby Lee Russ to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring June 30, 2021.

I. Keep Bladen Beautiful (1): Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously tabled an appointment of an East Bladen High School representative until the new school year begins.

J. Local Emergency Planning Committee (7): Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously reappointed Charles Peterson, Pete Batton, Bradley Kinlaw, Tiffany Pait, William Bryan, Becky Spearman, and Larry Hayes to three-year terms, with the terms expiring June 30, 2021. An unexpired term, with a term date of June 30, 2019, was discussed but not appointed. It will be addressed at a future meeting.

K. Lumber River Workforce Development Board (1): Commissioner Bullock made a motion to appoint Jessica Wilson, with a second provided by Commissioner Cogdell. The motion was defeated upon a vote of two (2) AYES (Bullock, Cogdell) to six (6) NOES (Priest, Gooden, Peterson, Britt, Dowless, Trivette). Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board, upon a vote of six (6) AYES (Peterson, Britt, Priest, Gooden, Dowless, Trivette) to two (2) NOES (Bullock, Cogdell) reappointed Dr. William Findt to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring June 30, 2021.

L. Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments (3): Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed David Hursey to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring June 30, 2021. Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Ralph Carter, Jr. to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring June 30, 2021. Upon a motion by Commissioner Priest, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously reappointed Pat Melvin to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring June 30, 2021.

M. Recreation Committee (4): Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously reappointed Jennifer Fruchey, Daniel Peterson, and Sara Ward to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring June 30, 2021; and waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Kenneth Daniels to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring June 30, 2021.

N. Tar Heel Fire Service District Committee (3): Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Vernon Richardson and Terry Herring to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring June
June 18, 2018

30, 2021; and unanimously reappointed Jimmy Allen to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring June 30, 2021.

O. Tobermory Fire Service District Committee (1): Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Franklin Davis to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring June 30, 2021.

P. White Lake Fire Service District Committee (3): Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Cary Hammonds to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring June 30, 2021; and unanimously reappointed J. C. Chadwick and Pedro Merritt to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring June 30, 2021.

Q. White Oak Fire Service District Committee (3): Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, reappointed Haywood McKoy and Mike Johnson to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring June 30, 2021; and reappointed Steve Dunham to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring June 30, 2021.

ITEM 10. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration at the July 9, 2018 Board Meeting:
A. Bladenboro Planning Board (2)
B. Library Board (1)

ITEM 11. County Manager: (Greg Martin)
A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of June and July 2018.
B. Mr. Martin provided a brief overview of a recent Courthouse Lawn Use request submitted by the Full Gospel Christian Church of Deliverance, Inc. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a request to hold a Pastor’s Prayer Gathering on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 12pm-1pm on the Courthouse lawn.
C. This item was included to schedule a possible Special Board Meeting regarding FY 2018-19 Budget. Since the Board adopted the FY 2018-19 Budget, there was no need to address this item.

ITEM 15. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:
No one in attendance addressed the Board.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:42pm.

ATTEST:

___________________________________  ______________________________________
Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board      Ray Britt, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners