

**August 17, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 17, 2020. The meeting was held in the Superior Courtroom, located on the second 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
- Ashley Trivette
- Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins
- Michael Cogdell
- Daniel Dowless
- Arthur Bullock

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

Chairman Britt asked the Board and those in attendance to observe a moment of silence in honor and memory of Commissioner Russell Priest who passed away suddenly on July 30, 2020.

**ITEM 1.** Reverend Tommy Puryear, Tar Heel Baptist Church, provided an invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 2. Consent Items:**

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

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of June 15, 2020 Meeting.
- C. Minutes of July 13, 2020 Meeting.
- D. Review of Budget Amendments through August 3, 2020, as follows:

**Tax Administration**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>104500.192</b>	Professional Legal	200.00	
<b>104500.192.002</b>	Professional Foreclosures	28.00	
<b>104500.270</b>	Advertising	75.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.010</b>	Miscellaneous Revenue	303.00	

#0005032/Evangelo Bowden

**Tax Administration**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>104500.192</b>	Professional Legal	200.00	
<b>104500.192.002</b>	Professional Foreclosures	42.00	
<b>104500.270</b>	Advertising	91.56	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.010</b>	Miscellaneous Revenue	333.56	

#0009227/Clayton and Shawnta Lloyd

**Tax Administration**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>104500.192</b>	Professional Legal	200.00	
<b>104500.192.002</b>	Professional Foreclosures	40.00	
<b>104500.270</b>	Advertising	152.66	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.010</b>	Miscellaneous Revenue	392.66	

#0020989/0027336/Joel and Sandra Robbins

**Central Services/Facilities Fees/Health/Water**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>105000.740</b>	Capital Outlay – Commissioners Room Ren	8,500.00	
<b>105000.740</b>	Capital Outlay – Gym Restroom Addition	80,000.00	
<b>105000.740</b>	Capital Outlay – Powell Melvin/Kitchen-Bathroom Renovation	10,000.00	
<b>105000.740</b>	Capital Outlay – Jail/LEC Add'l Water Service	8,000.00	
<b>126601.499</b>	Misc Exp – Courthouse Boiler/Chiller Repair	16,000.00	
<b>126601.499</b>	Misc Exp – Courthouse Masonry Repairs	8,500.00	
<b>105900.740</b>	Capital Outlay – Health Dept Renovations	85,000.00	
<b>254702.740</b>	Capital Outlay – Water Storage Bldg	120,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.050</b>	Fund Balance Appropriation	106,500.00	

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123190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	24,500.00	
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	85,000.00	
253190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	120,000.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

### Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	2,011.80	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	2,011.80	

VIN #5488 2019 Dodge Durango

### Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.738.002	GCC Grant – COVID19	19,193.41	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103270.017	Sheriff – GCC COVID19	19,193.41	

Governor's Crime Commission Grant for COVID-19 supplies.

### Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.200.016	Supplies – Surplus Proceeds	7,306.11	
105100.200.021	Supplies – K9	2,874.52	
105100.200.022	Supplies – GREAT	98.40	
105100.741	Capital Outlay – Vehicle	44,977.68	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	55,256.71	

Rollover of unspent ongoing projects.

### Health/Animal Control

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105200.740	Capital Outlay Equipment	1,823.27	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	1,823.27	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

### Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105900.5961.126	Part-time Salaries	12,250.00	
105900.5961.181	FICA	9,225.36	
105900.5961.310	Travel	105.67	
105900.5961.341	Printing	2,872.03	
105900.5961.395	Schools	6,059.29	
105900.5961.610	Contract Services	3,766.49	
105900.5961.801	Indirect Costs	9,127.22	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	43,406.06	

Rollover of unspent ongoing projects.

### Division on Aging

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6220.840	COVID-19 Nutrition	19,108.00	
106200.6225.840	COVID-19 Delivered Nutrition	4,950.00	
106200.6225.200	Supplies	5,000.00	
106200.6225.286	Food – Home Delivered	12,500.00	
106200.6225.740	Capital Outlay	7,500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	19,108.00	
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	4,950.00	
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	25,000.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing projects.

### Division on Aging

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6225.286	Food Home Delivered	10,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.054	MOW NC/SECU Grant	10,000.00	

Amend budget to include grant funds.

### Soil Conservation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106400.499.006	Misc Expense – Drill	35,119.47	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	35,119.47	

Rollover unspent drill funds, weed wiper funds, donations, etc.

### Extension

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106500.6502.310.004	Transportation	416.88	
106500.6502.310.005	MS Bus Mileage	800.00	
106500.6502.395.104	Program Supplies	253.27	
106500.6502.395.105	Juntos Event	1,200.00	

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<b>106500.6502.610.019</b>	Contract Services – Bus Driver	95.37	
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>103190.050</b>	Fund Balance Appropriation	2,765.52	

Rollover of unspent ongoing projects.

**Library**

<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>106700.499.074</b>	LSTA Grant	1,633.89	
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>103190.050</b>	Fund Balance Appropriation	1,633.89	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Library**

<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>106700.499.075</b>	Library Census Grant	2,000.00	
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>103630.015</b>	Library Census Grant	2,000.00	

Library Census Equity Grant.

**Admin/DSS**

<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>106900.903</b>	To DSS	14,156.32	
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>103190.050</b>	Fund Balance Appropriation	14,156.32	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Admin/DSS**

<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>106900.903</b>	To DSS	16,436.66	
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>103190.050</b>	Fund Balance Appropriation	16,436.66	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Special Revenues**

<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>115303.621.003</b>	Hard Cost Acquisition	781,237.00	
<b>115303.621.004</b>	Soft Cost Acquisition	59,021.00	
<b>115303.621.005</b>	Hard Cost Reconstruction	449,914.00	
<b>115303.621.006</b>	Soft Cost Reconstruction	99,981.00	
<b>115303.621.007</b>	Hard Cost Elevation	235,831.00	
<b>115303.621.008</b>	Soft Cost Elevation	10,100.00	
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>113230.041</b>	Federal HMGP	338,782.00	
<b>113230.042</b>	State HMGP	112,927.00	
<b>113230.043</b>	Federal HMGP	888,281.00	
<b>113230.044</b>	State HMGP	296,094.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Special Revenues**

<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>115304.960.001</b>	Admin	100,000.00	
<b>115304.960.008</b>	Reconstruction	750,000.00	
<b>115304.960.020</b>	Elevation	150,000.00	
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>113230.045</b>	HM DRA17	1,000,000.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Special Revenues**

<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>115305.960.011</b>	Admin	100,000.00	
<b>115305.960.010</b>	Flood Insurance	25,000.00	
<b>115305.960.011</b>	Housing Reimbursement	100,000.00	
<b>115305.960.013</b>	Mobile Home Rehab	200,000.00	
<b>115305.960.016</b>	Temporary Rental Assistance	25,000.00	
<b>115305.960.018</b>	Single Family Rehab	525,000.00	
<b>115305.960.019</b>	Small Rental Rehab	25,000.00	
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>113230.046</b>	DRA-2017	1,000,000.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Special Revenues**

<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>115306.621.001</b>	Soft Cost	26,750.00	
<b>115306.621.002</b>	Hard Cost	133,354.00	
<b>115306.960.001</b>	Admin	47,695.00	
<b>115306.960.021</b>	Acquisition	927,157.00	
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>113230.049</b>	DR4393-HMGP	1,001,602.00	
<b>113230.050</b>	DR4393-PA	133,354.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

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**Special Revenues**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
115307.960.001	Admin	15,000.00	
115307.960.022	SARF – 5369	166,500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
113230.051	SARF – 5369	181,500.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Special Revenues**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
115308.610	Contract Services	275,000.00	
115308.960.001	Admin	25,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103230.052	Kelly Dike	300,000.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Special Revenues**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
116400.982	Big Swamp 3	77,858.00	
116400.982.001	Big Swamp 4	71,075.00	
116400.982.002	Big Swamp 5	78,185.00	
116400.982.003	Crawley Swamp	75,000.00	
116400.982.004	Hammonds Creek	226,000.00	
116400.982.005	White Oak/Buckle	75,000.00	
116400.982.006	East Arcadia Lower	40,000.00	
116400.982.007	Horse Pen Branch	36,000.00	
116400.990	Contingency	26,653.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
113430.005	Stream Debris Removal Project	705,771.00	

State debris project approved 07/13/2020.

**Special Revenues**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
116800.840	COVID-19	782,398.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
113190.003	CRF	782,398.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Special Revenues**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
116800.840.430	Cares – Elections	70,797.00	
116800.840.431	Cares – HAVA	10,000.00	
116800.840.590	Cares – Health	192,882.00	
116800.840.530	Cares – EMS	83,571.82	
116800.840.620	Cares – BARTS	155,597.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
113180.070	Cares – Elections	70,797.00	
113180.071	Cares – HAVA	10,000.00	
113180.072	Cares – Health	192,882.00	
113180.073	Cares – EMS	83,571.82	
113180.074	Cares – BARTS	155,597.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Special Revenues**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
118000.197.001	GL-Truck Driving Grant	800,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
113472.003	GL-Truck Driving Grant	800,000.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.688	Crisis Intervention		216,934.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.220	Crisis Intervention		216,934.00

Funding Authorization #1.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.545	Federal Adoption Incentive	12,784.79	
146100.6160.499.050	Memorials	100.00	
146100.6160.571	Caring for Kids	2,193.73	
146100.6160.650.001	Foster Care Donations	213.78	
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness	962.32	
146100.6160.650.003	Adult Abuse Awareness	182.04	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143550.080	Fm General Fund	16,436.66	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

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**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6161.200	Supplies	10,633.71	
146100.6161.310	Travel	3,195.75	
146100.6161.288	Food	326.86	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143550.080	Fm General Fund	14,156.32	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Solid Waste**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
205800.398	KBB/Community Projects	749.52	
<i>Revenues</i>			
203190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	749.52	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Water Construction**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
234700.192	Professional Services Legal	61,000.00	
234700.197.002	Tech Services	29,000.00	
234700.270	Advertising	858.00	
234700.499	Miscellaneous Expense	25,364.00	
234700.611.011	Contract Services – Rivenbark	2,489,863.00	
234700.611.020	Contract Services – Bills Well Drilling	803,567.88	
234700.611.043	Contract Services – LKC Engineering	620,930.00	
234700.611.047	Contract Services – Fortiline	2,115,388.29	
234700.745	Interest	101,000.00	
234700.990	Contingency	267,028.83	
<i>Revenues</i>			
233190.014	Loan Proceeds	4,997,000.00	
233190.017	USDA Grant	1,000,000.00	
233190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	517,000.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Golden LEAF – Soil Conservation**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
266400.980	Big Swamp	205,920.00	
266400.980.001	Black River	226,990.00	
266400.980.002	Upper South	201,122.00	
266400.980.003	Lower South	165,968.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
263472.001	SC-Golden LEAF	800,000.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Sheriff – Equitable Sharing**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
535100.200	Supplies	400.68	
535100.212	Uniforms	185.50	
535100.395	Schools	698.36	
535100.499	Miscellaneous Expense	817.44	
535100.499.058	Misc Exp – Justice	18,367.78	
535100.739	Non-Inventorable	4,215.69	
<i>Revenues</i>			
533190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	24,685.45	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**CDBG**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
784991.621.001	Soft Cost	140,000.00	
784991.621.002	Hard Cost	554,850.00	
784991.960.001	Admin	5,150.00	
784992.960.001	Admin	2,250.00	
784992.960.012	Infrastructure	45,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
783970.025	SRF-DR17	700,000.00	
783970.026	CDBG-19SRA	47,250.00	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**Lock & Dam Project**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
794201.197.005	Detailed Design	1,301,000.00	
794210.574	Permits	270,000.00	
794201.574.001	Permits – In Kind	36,000.00	
794201.574.002	Education – In Kind	25,000.00	
794201.574.003	Monitoring – In Kind	30,000.00	
794201.574.004	Education	20,000.00	
794201.574.005	Monitoring	234,000.00	
794201.621	Construction	1,340,000.00	
794201.960.001	Admin	75,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			

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793180.010	Interest	464.40	
793190.054	Port of Wilmington	750,000.00	
793190.055	NCDENR Match	1,590,000.00	
793190.056	US Fish & Wildlife	25,000.00	
793190.057	Cape Fear River Watch	60,000.00	
793190.058	US Fish - In Kind	66,000.00	
793190.070	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation	839,535.60	

Rollover of unspent ongoing project.

**E. Budget Amendments through August 17, 2020, as follows:**

**Tax Administration**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	200.00	
104500.192.002	Professional Services Foreclosures	44.00	
104500.270	Advertising	263.72	
<b>Revenues</b>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	507.72	

#0007685/Ascension Rental Properties/194 W Hester St.

**Tax Administration**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	200.00	
104500.192.002	Professional Services Foreclosures	33.00	
104500.270	Advertising	94.16	
<b>Revenues</b>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	327.16	

#0047951/Jerry Lucy Jr/Evans Dr.

**Emergency Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105300.350.001	M/R Prison Camp	1,000.00	
<b>Revenues</b>			
103170.010	Rent	1,000.00	

Chapel rent to be used for maintenance.

**Division on Aging**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6201.741	Capital Outlay Vehicles	120,700.00	
<b>Revenues</b>			
103530.042	DOA Trans S18 Capital	108,630.00	
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	12,070.00	

Rollover from 19/20 for purchase of 2 BARTS Vans. Budget only include 1 van for 19/20.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106900.903	To DSS	8,727.88	
146100.6160.598	Settlement	8,727.88	
<b>Revenues</b>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	8,727.88	
143550.080	Fm General Fund	8,727.88	

Medicaid of overpayment audit due to NCDHHS.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.668	Crisis Intervention	216,934.00	
<b>Revenues</b>			
143531.220	Crisis Intervention	216,934.00	

Fund Authorization #2.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.120	Salaries		2,664.00
146100.6160.590	Special Foster Care ALL County	1,332.00	
<b>Revenues</b>			
143531.280	SSBG		1,332.00

Medical bill for a Foster Child.

**Revaluation**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
317201.610	Contract Services	255,100.00	
<b>Revenues</b>			
313190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	255,100.00	

Full year of revaluation.

**F. County Attorney Invoices.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>
7/06/2020	E M S	920.00
7/16/2020	Water District	900.00

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7/16/2020	Sheriff's Office	600.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,420.00</b>
8/05/2020	August-2020 Retainer	300.00
8/06/2020	Health Department	765.00
8/06/2020	Governing Board	700.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,765.00</b>

- G. Tax Releases No. 7-20, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.
- H. United States Marine Corps (USMC) Agreement for the Use of Bladen County Emergency Services Training Center and Associated Agreements for Training Exercises.
- I. FY 2020-21 Community Transportation Program (Section 5311) Grant Agreement.
- J. FY 2020-21 Mobile Communications America Agreement for 9-1-1 Maintenance Services.
- K. Lumber River Council of Governments' Service Agreement to Update Bladen County Zoning Ordinance.
- L. The following National Overdose Awareness Day Proclamation:



- M. Fireworks Display at Camp Clearwater Scheduled for September 5, 2020 or Undetermined Rain Date in Accordance with NCGS 14:413.
- N. Public Hearing for 6:30pm on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 to Receive Comments Regarding a Rezoning Request (PIN No. 1367-0007-5589).
- O. FY 2019-20 Memorandum of Understanding with NC Department of Public Safety regarding Inmate Labor.

**ITEM 3. Special Recognition:**

- A. Chairman Britt presented an Overdose Awareness Day Proclamation to Eastpointe Community Relations Specialist William Sellers, B.A., QMHP. Clerk to the Board Maria Edwards read aloud the Proclamation.

**ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

**ITEM 5. Matters of Interest:**

Chairman Britt shared with the Board that he had spoken with Reverend Larry Hayes, chairman of the Bladen County Democratic Party regarding a recommendation to fill the Board vacancy resulting from the recent death of Commissioner Russell Priest. Mr. Hayes indicated to Chairman Britt that an official recommendation is forthcoming for Robby Priest to fill his father's seat until December 2020. Chairman Britt voiced his support of the recommendation and stated that the recommendation will be included on the September 8, 2020 agenda.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Peterson to address the Board. Commissioner Peterson provided an update related to the Beaver Management Committee. He shared that he attended a recent meeting and stated that they are doing a very good job. He also stated that a company that had indicated they would replace the Kelly/White Oak Dike floodgates was now unable to provide that service. He further stated that a new company would visit the site and formulate a plan to replace the floodgates.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Munn-Goins to address the Board. Commissioner Munn-Goins inquired about an expected operation date for Elwell Ferry. She stated that residents are driving many miles out of their way since the ferry was not yet operational.

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Emergency Services Director Nathan Dowless addressed the Board. He stated that the cable had not yet been installed, but that he would inquire regarding plans. She also stated that a number of Carvers Creek, East Arcadia, and Clarkton residents had requested assistance with overgrown vegetation in and around roadsides and ditches. She stated that drivers are unable to see because of the vegetation, causing safety issues. She also inquired about glass or plexi-glass dividers not being installed in the Clerk of Court's offices. She asked County Manager Greg Martin to provide assistance to arrange installation of dividers to assist in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell inquired regarding blockages in drainage ditches throughout the County. He stated that some of these ditches have not been cleared of blockages and vegetation which caused additional issues during and immediately following Hurricane Isaias.

Commissioner Munn-Goins inquired why no beavers had been trapped in the Kelly, Carvers Creek, or East Arcadia areas. Commissioner Peterson stated that the Beaver Management Committee was responding to requests and encouraged landowners to submit information to the committee.

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board adopted the following Resolution recommending adherence to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Resolution passed by a vote of six (6) AYES (Bullock, Munn-Goins, Cogdell, Trivette, Britt, Dowless) to two (2) NOES (Peterson, Gooden).



- B. Commissioner Cogdell made a motion to adopt a Proclamation recognizing Racism as a public health crisis. Commissioner Bullock provided a second. During discussion, Commissioner Trivette asked Health and Human Services Agency Director Dr. Terri Duncan to address the terminology and overall proclamation. Dr. Duncan stated that, as a rural county, all Bladen County residents would be considered underserved. The adoption of the Proclamation failed on a vote of four (4) AYES (Cogdell, Bullock, Munn-Goins, Trivette) to four (4) NOES (Peterson, Britt, Gooden, Dowless).

**ITEM 6. Bladen County Schools: (Rusty Worley, Maintenance Director)**

- A. Mr. Worley presented a NC Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund Application in the amount of \$57,404.60 for the benefit of Bladenboro Primary School. He stated that this funding would be used to replace two (2) HVAC units at Bladenboro Primary School. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved the NC Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund Application in the amount of \$57,404.60 for the benefit of Bladenboro Primary School.
- B. Mr. Worley presented a NC Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund Application in the amount of \$12,922.00 for the benefit of Plainview Primary School. He stated that this funding would be used to replace an HVAC unit at Plainview Primary School. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved the NC Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund Application in the amount of \$12,922 for the benefit of Plainview Primary School.

**ITEM 7. Revenue Department: (Renee Davis, Tax Administrator/Assessor)**

Ms. Davis presented the following bids:

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- A. Bid in the amount of \$4,540 submitted by Telegre Shipman for County-owned property (PIN No. 0382-0033-1518) located off Center Road, Whites Creek Township.
  - B. Bid in the amount of \$4,330 submitted by Patrick Drye for County-owned property (PIN No. 0357-0030-6334) located off Grover Road, Hollow Township.
  - C. Bid in the amount of \$3,500 submitted by Michelle Chestnutt for County-owned property (PIN No. 1275-0072-5529) located off Baltimore Road, Carvers Creek Township.
  - D. Bid in the amount of \$3,300 submitted by Nancy Gowens for County-owned property (PIN No. 0268-1175-0575) located off Singletary Street, Bladenboro.
- Ms. Davis reported that each of the submitted bids covered the current investment to the County.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously accepted each of the bids detailed above. By accepting these bids, the upset bid process will be initiated.

- E. Ms. Davis presented the Unpaid Tax Report and Annual Settlement for Years 2010-2019 in accordance with NCGS 105-378A. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously accepted the Unpaid Tax Report and Annual Settlement for Years 2010-2019.
- F. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously adopted the following Order Directing the Tax Collector to Collect Taxes Charged in the Tax Records and Receipts:



- G. Ms. Davis provided an update regarding tax collections. She reported that, due to COVID-19, 2019 tax collections are challenging. Generally accepted remedies to collect past due taxes have not been utilized, resulting in reduced collection rates compared to previous years. She also provided information regarding advertisement of County-owned property, and resulting bids for the properties.

Mr. Martin commended Ms. Davis and her staff for improvement in recent years' collection rates.

Ms. Davis also provided updates regarding upcoming foreclosure sales. She stated that these properties are being advertised through the county website, in the Tax office, and in the Bladen Journal. She also shared that signs will be ordered for these properties as well.

Ms. Davis provided an update regarding Revaluation process. She stated that appraisers are working in the County, driving marked vehicles and carrying Bladen County identification badges.

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

- A. Mrs. Smith and Income Maintenance Program Manager Lisa Nance reviewed May-July 2020 Adult Medicaid Eligibility and Technical audit results. Mrs. Nance detailed employees with more than one year of experience, and separate results for employees with less than one year of experience. She explained that the Eligibility portion of the application process, if not completed properly, could result in a payback situation. Discussion was held regarding employee retention, ongoing training, and workload.

Mrs. Smith provided information regarding two (2) payback determinations resulting from a 2019-20 Audit. One incident resulted from a long term care facility not timely communicating with Bladen County DSS. The other payback incident resulted from the Children/Family Medicaid program. The amount that the County has to return to the State totals approximately \$8,700. Mrs. Smith stated that the employee has been identified and additional coaching is ongoing.

Mrs. Smith also provided information regarding a Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) supported program to assist with medical expenses.

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She stated that the program would begin on September 1 and will end when the pandemic is over. The program is for underinsured individuals, covering COVID testing and other related costs.

Mr. Martin indicated that some counties have purchased insurance to cover this type of payback. He further stated that he would research insurance and cost, and report findings to the Board.

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

Dr. Duncan provided a brief overview of the following agreements:

- A. Bladen Community College Agreement to allow for nursing students to participate in clinical rotations as required for curriculum completion. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved a Bladen Community College Agreement to allow nursing students to participate in clinical rotations.
- B. FY 2020-21 Fayetteville State University Clinical Instructional Agreement to allow nursing students to complete a clinical rotation in Public Health as required for their degree.
- C. General Contract with NCDHHS, Central Management and Support, Office of Rural Health regarding a Medication Assistance Program (MAP) for the period of August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved Items 9B and 9C.
- D. Dr. Duncan provided an update regarding COVID-19. Following discussion, the Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Worley, Bladen County Schools Maintenance Director, Dr. Duncan, and Emergency Services Director Nathan Dowless.

**ITEM 10. Finance Department: (Lisa Coleman, Finance Officer)**

- A. Mrs. Coleman reviewed a Financial Dashboard for the one-month period ending July 31, 2020. She also stated that sales tax revenues have exceeded expectations for the months of April and May. She reminded the Board, that due to a three-month delay, sales tax revenues would be rolled back into FY 2019-20 through September 2020.  
Following brief discussion, the Board expressed appreciation.

**ITEM 11. Emergency Medical Services: (David Howell, Director)**

- A. Mr. Howell provided an overview of a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grant Program. He stated that he received notification that the County's application was positively received and funding in the amount of \$199,643 is forthcoming. Grant funds will assist in data collection, performance measurement, and performance assessment, as well as a community paramedic program, substance abuse assistance, and mental health care assistance.  
Following discussion, the Board expressed appreciation.

**ITEM 12. Bladen County Water District:**

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously entered session as Bladen County Water District Board of Directors at 8:07pm.
- B. General Services Director Kip McClary provided an overview of COVID-19 collection policy for information. Mr. McClary stated that due to the Governor's Executive Orders 124 and 142, past due utility accounts must have a minimum of six (6) months to pay past due balances, while maintaining current usage fee payments. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved the Bladen County Water District COVID-19 Collections policy as presented.

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- C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board exited session as Bladen County Water District Board of Directors at 8:10pm.

**ITEM 13. Advisory Board Appointments:**

- A. **Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Wayne Edge, and appointed Pat DeVane to three year terms of service, with the terms expiring September 15, 2023.
- B. **Tobermory Fire Department Firefighters Relief Fund Advisory Board (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board tabled the appointment.

**ITEM 14. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration in September:**

- A. Keep Bladen Beautiful (3)
- B. Voluntary Agricultural Districts Committee (1)

**ITEM 15. County Manager: (Greg Martin)**

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed calendars for the month of September 2020.
- B. Mr. Martin provided a brief overview of a Bladen County Emergency Local Small Business Grant Program designed to assist businesses with COVID-19 related expenses. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved the Bladen County Emergency Local Small Business Grant Program and application.
- C. Mr. Martin provided an overview of the NC Association of County Commissioners' legislative goals submittal process. He stated that the deadline to submit is September 30, 2020. He encouraged Board members to let him know of items with statewide importance which can be submitted as legislative goals.

Mr. Martin also provided a brief update regarding Bladen County's 2020 Census response. He stated that due to COVID-19, residents are reluctant to respond. However, enumerators are in the County visiting households which have not responded. He expressed appreciation to Bladen Online and the Bladen Journal for reminding readers how important it is to respond.

Mr. Martin also provided an update regarding an inmate labor program. He stated that with COVID-19 and the expected increase in cost, most local participants, including Bladen County, have indicated their intent to end their participation. He further stated that since March 15, the inmate program was placed on hold.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

**ATTEST:**

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Maria C. Edwards, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board

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Ray Britt, Chairman  
Bladen County Board of Commissioners