

August 19, 2019

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 19, 2019. 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:

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Michael Cogdell
Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins
Daniel Dowless
Ray Britt
Russell Priest
Ashley Trivette
Arthur Bullock

Excused: David R. Gooden

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

Chairman Peterson announced that Commissioner Gooden was unable to attend the Board meeting.

ITEM 1. Reverend Kevin Kinlaw, New Center Baptist Church, provided an Invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of the August 5, 2019 Regular Meeting.
- C. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	191.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	191.00	

0018289 to Deborah Belle and Dawn Belle.

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	196.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	196.00	

0009786 to Ronita T Munn.

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	184.00	
104500.270	Advertising	135.76	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	319.76	

0046722 to Mark E Reeves.

Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.200.016	Supplies - Surplus	2,500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103270.009	Donations	2,500.00	

To purchase ASP types devices with holders.

Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.5110.738.001	Jail Extraction Suits Grant	20,167.62	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103260.024	Jail Extraction Suits Grant	20,167.62	

GCC 2017 Jail Extraction Suits Grant.

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DR4393 Hurricane Florence

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105306.960.021	Acquisition	927,157.00	
105306.621.001	Soft Costs	26,750.00	
105306.621.002	Hard Costs	133,354.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103230.049	DR 4393 HMGP	953,907.00	
103230.050	DR 4393 PA	133,354.00	

Project DR 4393 for 5 acquisitions of residents damaged during Hurricane Florence.

D. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
7/17/2019	Division on Aging	2,750.00
7/24/2019	E M S	5,950.00
8/01/2019	August-2019 Retainer	300.00
	Total	\$ 9,000.00

- E. Tax Releases No. 7-19, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.
- F. Bladen County Matching Incentive Grant Program.
- G. Private sale of County-Owned Property (PIN No. 0346-0095-5246), located at 2229 Spring Branch Road, Tar Heel.
- H. FY 2019-20 Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults.

ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Chairman Peterson stated that the Kelly levee breaches had all been repaired, but the contractor may return to plant more grass to better secure the newly repaired levee.

Chairman Peterson also shared that he had received a phone call from a NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) representative who indicated that notification would be forthcoming to notify the County and Kelly community that NCWRC would repair the floodgates which are an integral component of the levee system.

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell stated that he had received numerous positive comments regarding the Roadside Litter Pick-Up program and encouraged the Sheriff's Office to expand the program.

ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

ITEM 5. Bladen County Schools: (Sharon Penny, Finance Officer)

- A. Mrs. Penny provided a brief overview of a North Carolina Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund Application in the amount of \$275,000. She stated that the request would fund a parking lot and driveway renovation and redesign project for Elizabethtown Primary School. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously approved a North Carolina Education Lottery Public School Building Capital Fund Application in the amount of \$275,000.

ITEM 6. Bladen County Water District:

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously entered session as Bladen County Water District Board of Directors at 6:39pm.
- B. General Services Director Kip McClary stated that LKC Engineering representative Adam Kiker was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. McClary provided an update regarding a Phase IV water system expansion project. He stated that the bid documents had been approved by US Department of Agriculture (USDA) on August 8, and following additional paperwork

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regarding easements and finalizing the well site property purchase, that advertising for construction bids could be published within 30-40 days. He further stated that testing results for the well site have been positive, and a filtration system would not be necessary.

- C. Mr. McClary provided an overview of a listing of inactive water customer accounts. He stated that owners' of the account are deceased and all collection attempts have been exhausted. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved account balances in the amount of \$37,349.54 be written off as Bad Debt.

Commissioner Munn-Goins inquired regarding a Bladen County citizen who had her water service discontinued for non-payment since a significant leak had been located at the service address. Mr. McClary asked Commissioner Munn-Goins to provide specific information and stated that he would be glad to share information as quickly as possible.

- D. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously exited session as Water District Board of Directors at 6:46pm.

ITEM 7. Emergency Services: (Nathan Dowless, Director)

- A. Mr. Dowless and Holland Consulting Planners Program Director Ryan Cox provided updates regarding ongoing mitigation and recovery efforts involving Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Florence grant programs.

ITEM 8. Human Resources: (Shonteia Keaton, Director)

- A. Ms. Keaton provided a brief overview of the proposed amendments to the Adverse Weather Conditions policy previously discussed during a strategic planning session in February 2019. Mr. Martin shared that the intent of the policy is to compensate employees who work during weather related events, but non-essential employees who are not required to report to work will need to utilize annual vacation leave in order to be compensated.

The amendment to Adverse Weather Conditions policy follows:

Non-essential personnel would use annual leave when offices are closed. Essential personnel would receive regular compensation for hours worked. Effort would be made for employees to make up hours lost – without going into an overtime status.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved an amendment to the Adverse Weather Conditions policy, which is also to be included as a part of Annual Vacation Leave and Pay Plan Overtime policies.

ITEM 9. General Services: (Kip McClary, Director)

- A. Mr. McClary provided information regarding a Board request to research the use of solid waste convenience sites by citizens other than Bladen County residents. He researched and found that Chatham County used a decal program. He shared concerns regarding a decal program including ongoing costs, enforcement, and ease of citizen participation.

Mr. McClary provided a proposed survey form to be filled out by the site attendant at various solid waste convenience sites. Information to be collected would include the name, address, and a brief description of the vehicle. This information could be collected as individuals visit convenience sites.

Following additional discussion, the Board expressed appreciation to Mr. McClary.

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ITEM 10. Beaver Management Program: (Dean Morris, Committee Representative)

- A. Mr. Morris and Committee member Mr. E. W. Bowen addressed the Board regarding a recommendation to partner with Columbus County, if accepted by Columbus County Board of Commissioners, and share one (1) full-time Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) employee. The committee also recommended continuing with the Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP), and to cover landowner fees which would be assessed by APHIS and/or BMAP.

Commissioner Cogdell made a motion to accept the program proposal including County funding of the the landowner's share, but to review the proposal if Columbus County Board of Commissioners does not approve a cooperative agreement. Commissioner Munn-Goins provided a second.

During additional discussion, Mr. Morris provided prorated estimated costs if the program would begin on October 1, 2019 and end on June 30, 2020. Mr. Morris stated that for the current fiscal year, the estimated cost would be \$22,875 without including the landowners' share; and \$25,125 if the landowners' share is included.

Chairman Peterson revisited the motion on the floor. The motion was approved upon a vote of seven (7) AYES (Cogdell, Munn-Goins, Priest, Trivette, Britt, Dowless, Bullock) to one (1) NO (Peterson).

Mr. Morris asked that the Board members consider appointments to a Bladen County Beaver Management Advisory Board. He suggested two (2) Board of County Commission appointed members from each district.

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

- A. Mr. Howell provided an overview of an invitation to provide pricing for a remount ambulance. He recommended accepting the low bid in the amount of \$91,955 submitted by Precision Rescue. He further stated that Bladen County EMS had worked successfully with Precision Rescue in the past.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously accepted a bid in the amount of \$91,955 submitted by Precision Rescue for the purchase of a remount ambulance.

ITEM 12. Health and Human Services Agency: (Dr. Terri Duncan, Director)

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously approved a Clinical Instructional Agreement for Fayetteville State University School of Nursing to allow for nursing students to complete a Public Health training rotation during the period of August 15, 2019 through August 14, 2020.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously approved a Shred-It Purge Service Agreement for a one-time shred project.
- C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously approved an Interagency Contract with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to allow for nursing students to complete a Public Health training rotation. The agreement is for the period of June 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.
- D. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved an amended Bladen County Health and Human Services Vital Records Policy. The policy was updated to reflect changes in administration and credentials.

ITEM 13. Revenue Department: (Renee Davis, Tax Administrator/Assessor)

- A. Ms. Davis introduced Tax Collector Carol Cain to present an Unpaid Tax Report and Annual Settlement for Years 2009 through 2018 in accordance with NCGS 105-378A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by

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Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously accepted the Unpaid Tax Report for Years 2009-2018.

- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously charged the Tax Collector to collect taxes charged in the Tax Records and Receipts. The fully executed Charge follows:



ITEM 14. Department of Social Services: (Vickie Smith, Director)

- A. Mrs. Smith and Program Supervisor Lisa Nance provided an overview of audit information associated with an Adult Medicaid corrective action plan. Information was shared for the month of July. Ms. Nance reviewed eligibility and technical aspects of the audit process. She indicated that a number of recently hired employees are still training in Cumberland County, but would be included as part of the audit process in the coming weeks. The Board expressed appreciation for efforts to ensure accuracy in securing benefits for citizens.

ITEM 15. Advisory Board Appointments:

- A. **Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously reappointed Tim Tart and Gary Roberts to six (6) year terms of service, with the terms expiring August 16, 2025.
- B. **Recreation Advisory Committee (1):** Commissioner Britt made a motion to appoint Tony Hood to an unexpired term. Commissioner Trivette provided a second. Commissioner Bullock made a motion to appoint Walter Rhodie to an unexpired term, and Commissioner Munn-Goins provided a second. Chairman Peterson called for a vote, by a show of hands, regarding the first motion on the floor. The Board, on a vote of five (5) AYES (Britt, Trivette, *Priest, Peterson, Dowless) to three (3) NOES (Cogdell, Bullock, Munn-Goins), appointed Tony Hood to an unexpired term, with the term of service expiring June 30, 2021.
*Pursuant to Bladen County Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure, Rule 10I, Commissioner Priest, who did not cast a vote and was physically present, was recorded as having cast an affirmative vote.

Commissioner Cogdell inquired regarding status of having Advisory Board information included on the website. Mr. Martin indicated that staff would work toward that end.

ITEM 16. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During September 16, 2019 Board Meeting:

- A. EMS Advisory Committee (6)
B. Voluntary Agriculture Districts Committee (2)
C. Watershed Review Board (2)

ITEM 17. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of August and September 2019.
B. Mr. Martin reviewed a Financial Dashboard for the one-month period ending July 31, 2019.
C. Mr. Martin provided an overview FY 2019-20 Charitable Donation applications received. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by

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Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved the following FY 2019-20 Charitable Donation appropriations:

American Legion Post 404	\$ 1,095
Bladenboro Historical Society	1,095
Bladen Co. Youth Focus Project	1,095
Lower Cape Fear Hospice	1,095
Special Olympics Bladen County	<u>1,095</u>
Total	<u>\$ 5,475</u>

- D. Mr. Martin reviewed a proposed Bladen County Involuntary Commitment Transportation Plan and Policy pursuant to Senate Bill 630-Revision of North Carolina Laws Pertaining to Involuntary Commitment (IVC), Session Law 2018-33. Mr. Martin stated that Eastpointe representative Jeanette Jordan-Huffam was in attendance and was completely familiar with the changes in state law. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved the Bladen County Involuntary Commitment Transportation Plan and Policy and adopted the following Resolution supporting an Involuntary Commitment Transportation Services Policy for Bladen County:



- E. Mr. Martin briefly reviewed revisions to a draft Remote Participation policy for information. He indicated that video requirements have been included at the Board's direction. The Board, by consensus, asked that the policy and Resolution be included on the next Board meeting agenda for action.

Commissioner Bullock inquired regarding if a county policy was in place related to employees working from home. Mr. Martin stated that there is not currently a work from home policy in place.

ITEM 18. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners