

September 21, 2020

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, September 21, 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
- Robert Priest

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Britt provided an invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Oath of Office:

A. Clerk of Superior Court Niki Dennis provided the Oath of Office to District 3 Commissioner Robert “Robby” A. Priest. Mr. Priest was joined by his family to take and subscribe the Oath of Office.

ITEM 3. Consent Items:

Prior to adoption of Consent Items, Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Bullock who had questions regarding Consent Item 3H-Vanguard Professional Staffing Services Contract. He posed several questions and received information from County Manager Greg Martin and HHS Director Dr. Terri Duncan. They indicated they would follow-up with responses to several questions for which information was not immediately available. Following discussion, Commissioner Cogdell made a motion to remove item 3-H-Vanguard Professional Staffing Service Contract. Commissioner Bullock provided a second. Following discussion, Chairman Britt called for a vote to retain item 3H-Vanguard Professional Staffing Service Contract as a Consent Item. By a vote of seven (7) AYES (Trivette, Peterson, Britt, Gooden, Priest, Munn-Goins, Dowless) to two (2) NOES (Cogdell, Bullock), Item 3H-Vanguard Professional Staffing Service Contract remained on the Consent Agenda.

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

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of September 8, 2020 Meeting.
- C. Budget Amendments through September 21, 2020, as follows:

Workplace Safety

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104230.739	Non Inventorable	3,424.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	3,424.00	

To purchase new ID machine.

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	400.00	
104500.192.002	Professional Services Foreclosures	88.00	
104500.270	Advertising	223.42	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	711.42	

#0049497/#0017948/789 Spring Branch/37 Beatty Rd – Simpson/Drye

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	200.00	
104500.192.002	Professional Services Foreclosures	35.00	

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104500.270	Advertising	100.66	
Revenues			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	335.66	

#0026742/Off Center Road/Telegre Shipman

Central Services

Expenditures		Increase	Decrease
105000.740	Capital Outlay	6,557.00	
Revenues			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	6,557.00	

Change order #1 approved 09/08/2020.

Motor Pool

Expenditures		Increase	Decrease
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	1,747.70	
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	2,157.24	
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	2,274.40	
Revenues			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	1,747.70	
103190.011	Insurance Claims	2,157.24	
103190.011	Insurance Claims	2,274.40	

VIN #5580, 1785, & 9626.

Sheriff's Office

Expenditures		Increase	Decrease
105100.741	Capital Outlay – Vehicles	19,971.00	
Revenues			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	19,971.00	

Total loss jail van.

Emergency Services

Expenditures		Increase	Decrease
105300.350.001	M/R Prison Camp	1,000.00	
Revenues			
103170.010	Rent	1,000.00	

Chapel rent to be used for maintenance.

Extension - Innovation Grant

Expenditures		Increase	Decrease
106500.6501.126	Part-time Salaries	130.00	
106500.6501.181	FICA	122.74	
106500.6501.760	Materials	95.29	
106500.6501.762	Materials/Equipment	180.19	
Revenues			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	528.22	

Rollover unspent Grant.

Education

Expenditures		Increase	Decrease
106910.877	BCC-Capital Outlay	120,057.50	
Revenues			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	120,057.50	

Rollover unexpended capital.

D. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
9/11/2020	Parks & Recreation	500.00
9/18/2020	Sheriff's Office	500.00
	Total	\$ 1,000.00

E. The following Resolution Honoring the Memory of Commissioner Russell Priest:



- F. Bladen County 2021 Holiday Schedule.
- G. Review of August 2020 Adult Medicaid Audit Results.
- H. Vanguard Professional Staffing Services Contract.

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- I. FY 2019-20 County Funding Plan for Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults.

ITEM 4. Special Recognition:

- A. Chairman Britt presented to the Russell Priest Family a Resolution Honoring Commissioner Priest who suddenly passed away on July 30, 2020. Clerk to the Board Maria Edwards read aloud the Resolution. The family expressed appreciation.

ITEM 5. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

Chairman Britt recognized Carlene Coble McIntyre to address the Board. Ms. McIntyre voiced her opposition of the rezoning request presented during the September 8 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Chairman Britt recognized Jermaine Johnson to address the Board. Mr. Johnson, who submitted the rezoning request, provided information regarding his plans for a small office and a very limited number of vehicles on the subject property.

Chairman Britt thanked each of the speakers.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Bullock to address the Board. Commissioner Bullock inquired regarding a Bladen County Emergency Small Business Grant program and status update. Mr. Martin stated that there had been approximately \$13,000 in reimbursable expenses to businesses that had submitted applications. He further stated that the deadline to submit applications had been extended to September 30, 2020.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Munn-Goins to address the Board. Commissioner Munn-Goins inquired regarding the status of Elwell Ferry. Emergency Services Director Nathan Dowless stated that the ferry was still not operational. He stated that since the death of the former operator, the State had not yet secured a contractor to operate the ferry. He also stated that the NC Department of Transportation is currently under a contract freeze, but representatives had indicated that the freeze may be lifted in the near future.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell inquired regarding mask/face coverings requirements in county facilities. Chairman Britt stated that if someone was reluctant to wear a face covering, due to HIPPA laws, questions could not be asked. Mr. Martin stated that there is signage on all county facilities recommending masks/face coverings.

ITEM 6. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

- A. During discussion, the Board determined the rezoning request is consistent with the adopted 2013-230 Bladen County Land Use Plan, and the rezoning request is reasonable; and the rezoning request is in the public interest. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board, determining, approved a rezoning request submitted by Jermaine Johnson (PIN No. 1367-0007-5589) located at 118 Davis Road, Garland. The motion passed on a vote of eight (8) AYES (Cogdell, Bullock, Trivette, Peterson, Britt, Munn-Goins, Priest, Dowless) to one (1) NO (Gooden).

ITEM 7. Bladen County Schools: (Russell Worley, Maintenance Director)

- A. Mr. Worley provided an overview of a North Carolina Education Lottery Public School Capital Fund Application in the amount of \$31,856 to purchase two (2) HVAC units to be installed at Elizabethtown Middle School. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved the NC Education Lottery Public School Capital Fund Application in the amount of \$31,856 for the benefit of Elizabethtown Middle School.

ITEM 8. Finance Department: (Lisa Coleman, Finance Officer)

A. Mrs. Coleman reviewed a Financial Dashboard for the two (2) month-period ending August 31, 2020.

ITEM 9. Revenue Department: (Renee Davis, Tax Administrator/Assessor)

A. Ms. Davis provided an overview of a bid submitted by Glenn C. Davis for county-owned property located at 1961 Mitchell Ford Road, Clarkton (PIN No. 0297-0098-0140). She stated that the investment to the County is \$5,500 and the bid received was in the amount of \$5,500. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously accepted the offer of \$5,500 for the county-owned property (PIN No. 0297-0098-0140) located at 1961 Mitchell Ford Road, Clarkton. By accepting the bid, the upset bid process was initiated.

B. Ms. Davis provided an overview of county-owned properties where current investment to the county is greater than the assessed tax valuation. She requested the Board consider approving reserve pricing for the following properties:

PIN No.	Description of Property	Sales Price	Assessed Value	Reserve Pricing
0350-00-04-3109 & 0350-00-04-2371	Vacant tract on Hemlock Drive and 1995 MH & tract at 259 Hemlock Drive	\$ 9,800.00	\$ 7,150.00	\$ 7,150.00
1349-00-78-4907	Vacant tract at 156 Bangshaw Road	5,800.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
1269-00-57-1720	1975 MH & tract at 785 Barney Coe Road	6,400.00	6,040.00	6,040.00
1313-00-04-0325	Home at Lazy Acres Drive, Elizabethtown	8,700.00	5,030.00	5,030.00
2203-18-42-9273	Vacant tract at 997 East Arcadia Road	3,210.00	2,410.00	2,410.00
0297-00-82-9556 & 0297-00-92-0652	Vacant tracts off Beasley & Graham Roads	3,600.00	2,420.00	2,420.00
1320-00-16-5258	Vacant tract at 85 Robinson Temple Church Road	8,630.00	2,630.00	2,630.00
0288-00-10-2736	Vacant tract off NC 211 Hwy. West, Bladenboro	3,680.00	660.00	660.00
0269-17-10-5755	Vacant tract off Byrd Street, Bladenboro	3,830.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
0249-00-45-9237	Vacant tract off Butters Cemetery Road, Bladenboro	3,065.00	2,250.00	2,250.00
0297-20-71-8755	Vacant tract off Grand Road, Clarkton	3,405.00	2,450.00	2,450.00

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved reserve pricing for the above listed county-owned properties where the current investment to the County is greater than the assessed tax value.

C. Ms. Davis presented a Pilot Program to dispose of county-owned properties that have not been included in property tax receipts for over three years. She further explained the process in accordance with NCGS 160A-268. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved a Pilot Program to dispose of county-owned property by sealed bids in accordance with NCGS 160A-268.

D. Ms. Davis provided information regarding tax collection rates, comparing previous year-ends' collection rates. She also provided information from neighboring and similar size counties, which indicated COVID-19 affected collection rates, but not singularly. Following discussion, Ms. Davis requested the Board consider approving the transition of a part-time Tax Collector position to a Full-Time Collection Support and Audit Specialist position, which was originally presented during the September 8, 2020 Board meeting.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved the transition of a part-time Tax Collector position to a Full-Time Collection Support and Audit Specialist position.

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ITEM 10. Health and Human Services Agency: (Dr. Terri Duncan, Director)

- A. Dr. Duncan provided an update regarding COVID-19.

Dr. Duncan provided an overview of the following agreements and proposed charges for influenza vaccine:

- B. FY 2020-21 Agreement with Bladen Community College to allow for phlebotomy students to complete clinical requirements at the Bladen County Health Department.
- C. Professional Services Agreement with Columbus County Health Department to allow for medical and clinical services to Bladen County residents at the Bladen County Health Department.
- D. South University Savannah, LLC Affiliation Agreement to allow for Physician Assistant students to participate in clinical training as required for degree completion.
- E. Frontier Nursing University, Inc. Clinical Affiliation Agreement to allow for nursing students to participate in a clinical rotation in Public Health as required for degree completion.
- F. Agreement with the University of North Carolina at Pembroke to allow for nursing students to complete clinical rotations in Public Health as required for degree completion.
- G. Influenza vaccine costs and charges, with a recommendation from the Health and Human Services Agency Advisory Board for the Health Department fees to remain at current pricing levels.

Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved each of the above referenced agreements and influenza vaccine charges as presented (Items 10B-10G).

ITEM 11. Emergency Services: (Nathan Dowless, Director)

- A. Mr. Dowless provided an overview of a Resolution designating Emergency Services Director to establish Just Compensation and to sign sales agreements for the Bladen County Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs (HMGP) Expedited Acquisition projects. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board unanimously adopted the following Resolution:



ITEM 12. Parks and Recreation Department: (Grant Pait, Director)

- A. Mr. Pait provided an overview of a Fall 2020 Softball and Baseball programs. He stated that the Recreation Advisory Board recommended a schedule for girls' softball (ages 5-16) and boys' baseball (ages 13-14). Guidance provided by the NC Department of Health and Human Services was incorporated into Bladen County's Parks and Recreation COVID-19 guidelines. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved the Fall 2020 Softball and Baseball programs.

ITEM 13. Advisory Board Appointments:

- A. **Keep Bladen Beautiful (6):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously reappointed Erin Smith and Marlena Diehm to three-year terms of service, with the terms

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expiring June 30, 2023; appointed William Craig to fill an unexpired term, with the term expiring December 31, 2021; appointed East Bladen High School student representative Nick Norris and West Bladen High School student representative Cara Beth Lewis to terms, with the terms expiring June 30, 2021; and, waiving the rules on term limits, reappointed Sondra Guyton to a three year term, with the term expiring June 30, 2023.

- B. **Voluntary Agricultural Districts Committee (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Ralph Carter to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring September 30, 2023.

ITEM 14. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed calendars for the months of September 2020 and October 2020.
- B. Mr. Martin provided a brief overview of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) legislative goals process. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved the following legislative goals to be submitted for consideration during the NCACC legislative goals process:
- Seek authority for all counties to enact local option revenue sources already given to any other jurisdiction, with a referendum requirement.
 - Seek legislation to provide increased funding to expand Broadband to rural areas.
 - Seek legislation to provide counties with payments in lieu of taxes for State owned property.
 - Seek legislation to provide increased funding for behavioral health (including substance use disorders).
 - Seek legislation to discontinue county payback requirement related to errors in determining Medicaid eligibility.
- C. Mr. Martin reviewed for information a listing of FY 2020-21 Charitable Contribution applications received, with a recent update included. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously tabled Charitable Contributions.
- D. Mr. Martin requested the Board consider scheduling a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) program application for 6:30pm on Monday, October 5, 2020. He further stated that citizens were encouraged to provide input into the development of the application.
Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously scheduled a Public Hearing for 6:30pm on Monday, October 5, 2020, to receive comments regarding a CDBG-CV program application.

ITEM 15. Closed Session:

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously entered Closed Session in Accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) Real Property Purchase at 7:32pm.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously exited Closed Session at 7:57pm.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously adjourned at 7:57pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, NCCCC

Ray Britt, Chairman

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Clerk to the Board

Bladen County Board of Commissioners