

January 21, 2014

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

- James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Chairman
- Mark Gillespie, Vice Chairperson
- Charles Ray Peterson
- Delilah Blanks
- Billy Ray Pait
- Russell Priest
- Daniel Dowless
- G. Michael Cogdell
- Wayne Edge

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order. Reverend Larry Hayes, Good News Baptist Church, Bladenboro, NC provided the Invocation. County Manager Gregory J. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

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

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of Regular Meeting on January 6, 2014.
- C. Budget Amendments as follows:

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1059005960.499.030	Wolfe Mini Grant	1,245.12	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.053	Fund Balance Appropriated - Health	1,245.12	

Rollover funds from Wolfe Mini Grant.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1059005987.990	Contingency	7,946.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.053	Fund Balance Appropriated - Health	7,946.00	

Received more than budgeted in CHAP Grant.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1059005980.120	Salaries	24,315.00	
1059005980.181	FICA	1,860.00	
1059005980.182	Retirement	1,719.00	
1059005980.183	Group Insurance	3,865.00	
1059005980.185	Retiree Health Insurance	1,288.00	
1059005980.200	Supplies	2,386.00	
1059005980.251	Vehicle Fuels	287.00	
1059005980.252	Vehicle Usage	861.00	
1059005980.321	Telephone	696.00	
1059005980.325	Postage	100.00	
1059005980.341	Printing	2,410.00	
1059005980.353	Copier	800.00	
1059005980.499.038	Incentives	5,100.00	
1059005980.610	Contracted Services	25,170.00	
1059005980.800	Unemployment Taxes	143.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.158	DHHS-Fed/State	71,000.00	

Young Families Connect Grant.

Library

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106700.310	Travel	200.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	200.00	

Donation from Gail Stokes.

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Library

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106700.232	Audiovisual	2,500.00	
106700.325	Postage	180.00	
106700.231	Library Books	10,114.78	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103630.011	LSTA Grant	12,794.78	

Library Equipment Grant.

Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106900.901	To Economic Development	21,100.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	21,100.00	

Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial incentive.

Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106900.903	To DSS	6,250.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	6,250.00	

Increase to DSS for shared rent for Joblink building.

Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106900.903	To DSS	1,247.30	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	1,247.30	

Audit findings – Child Daycare.

DSS

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
146100.412	Building/Equipment Rent	12,500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	6,250.00	
143550.080	Fm General Fund	6,250.00	

DSS share of Joblink rent.

DSS

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1461006160.598	Settlement	1,247.30	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143550.080	Fm General Fund	1,247.30	

Audit findings – Child Daycare.

Economic Development

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
307200.940	Joblink Rent		21,342.07
<i>Revenues</i>			
303421.031	Joblink Rent		21,342.07

Reduction of rent from Joblink.

Economic Development

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
307200.910	Special Appropriations	21,100.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
303422.002	Fm General Fund	21,100.00	

Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial incentive.

Carvers Creek Fire Department

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
435343.499	Miscellaneous Expense	50,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
433190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	50,000.00	

To purchase used fire engine.

Elizabethtown Fire Department

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
455345.499	Miscellaneous Expense	2,200.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
453190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	2,200.00	

To purchase furniture for new station.

D. County Attorney Invoices:

Date	Department	Amount
1/08/14	Human Resources	\$ 795.00
1/17/14	Sheriff's Office	\$ 250.00
	Total	\$ 1,045.00

- E. Tax Refunds and Releases No. 12-13, incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.
- F. Community Development Block Grant Monthly Performance Status Reports for Dec-3 (2), incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Commissioner Gillespie stated that he had witnessed excellent customer service provided by Sheriff's Office employee Jewel Smith and Tax Administrator Chris Ellis and he wanted to commend both of them for stepping outside their normal job duties to assist a citizen. The citizen, who had been in the hospital, was attempting to pay his taxes. Mrs. Smith recognized the need and assisted the citizen by arranging for Mr. Ellis to come to this car to receive his tax payment. Chairman Smith commended both Mr. Ellis, who was in attendance, and Mrs. Smith, through asking Sheriff Benston to congratulate Mrs. Smith.

- A. Mr. John Franklin Burney was recognized for reaching his 100th birthday and was presented a Proclamation, which follows. Many family members were in attendance to be with Mr. Burney to celebrate. Chairman Smith asked the Clerk to read aloud the Proclamation presented to Mr. Burney.



- B. Chairman Smith recognized the following employees for years of service:

Name	Department	Years of Service
Sheila Manual	Social Services	5
Heather Allar	Social Services	10
Jackie Dennis	Health	10
Diana Nobles	Environmental Health	10
Warren Holder	Sheriff's Office	10
Jimmy Stanley	Sheriff's Office	10
Jason Bagwell	EMS	5
Grant Pait	Parks & Recreation	15
Lisa Coleman	Finance	20

The meeting was recessed for a reception held in honor of the Employees for their years of service and for Mr. Burney.

Chairman Smith reconvened the meeting at 6:55pm.

ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance wished to address the Board.

ITEM 5. Public Hearing:

- A. Chairman Smith declared open the Public Hearing to Receive Comments Regarding a Proposed \$25,000 Incentive Grant Agreement to Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial LLC. Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Smith declared the Public Hearing closed.

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B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board unanimously approved the \$25,000 Incentive Grant Agreement with Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, LLC, to assist with endeavors to create jobs and tax base.

ITEM 6. Finance Department: (Lisa Coleman, Director)

A. Mrs. Lisa Coleman reviewed the Financial Dashboard for the 6-month period ending December 31, 2013.

ITEM 7. Revenue Department: (Chris Ellis, Tax Administrator)

A. Chris Ellis provided an update related to the Tax and Tag Together program and the costs and fees assessed by the DMV and Local License Plate Agency for collecting taxes on registered motor vehicles. Currently, a fee of \$2.27 per vehicle is assessed by the DMV. The County's pro-rata share of this yearly cost (\$76,499) is approximately \$59,783, which represents 33,700 motor vehicles. The difference between the annual cost of \$76,499 and the County's pro-rata share (\$59,783) is the responsibility of the municipalities within the County. However, this amount does not include any credit/debit card usage fees, which will be assessed to counties when taxpayers use that method of payment.

ITEM 8. Human Resources: (Amy Pharr, Director)

A. Amy Pharr presented an overview of the current compensation plan. The current plan rewards employees for relevant experience and years of service. While this has positive benefits, in terms of recruiting and retaining employees, it can also impact compensation to the extent that a seasoned employee's compensation can exceed his or her supervisor with limited experience. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved capping years of service credited for new employees to 10 years, as well as revising the compensation plan to reflect a three-grade separation for supervisors.

ITEM 9. Emergency Management: (Bradley Kinlaw, Director)

A. Bradley Kinlaw presented a request by Elizabethtown Rescue President Arthur Bullock to reduce the number of downtime hours from eight (8) hours to six (6) hours for Bladen County EMS employees. This change will allow employees to work at the volunteer rescue squads from 6pm-12am, and report to work with Bladen County EMS at 6am. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board unanimously approved the reduction of required downtime hours to six (6) hours.

ITEM 10. Advisory Board Appointments:

A. **Bladen County Airport Appeals (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board reappointed Richard Bryan, with the term expiring January 22, 2017. Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the board reappointed Steve Willis, with the term expiring January 22, 2017.

B. **Elizabethtown Planning & Zoning Commission (ETJ) (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board waived the policy on term limits, and unanimously reappointed Marie Yvette Ross, with the term expiring January 31, 2017.

C. **Elizabethtown Board of Adjustment (ETJ) (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board waived the policy on term limits, and unanimously reappointed Marie Yvette Ross, with the term expiring January 31, 2017.

ITEM 10. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

A. County Manager Greg Martin reviewed the calendars for January 2014 and February 2014.

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Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

James G. Smith, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board