

October 21, 2013

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, October 21, 2013 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 Blanks the Board approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda, with addition of Items 3B, Resolution in Memory of Ivory Graham Daniels and 3C, United Way Day of Caring Appropriation Request.
- B. Minutes of Regular Meeting on October 7, 2013.
- C. Budget Amendments as follows:

Planning

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
104220.325	Postage	250.00	
104220.270	Advertising	250.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103110.001	Zoning/Cell Tower	500.00	

Cover fees associated with cell tower public hearing.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105900.499.044	NCPHF-CQI	1,750.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.171	NCPHF-CQI	1,750.00	

Funds received from NC Public Health Foundation to complete CQI Project.

JCPC-4H Juvenile Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106805.640	JCPC-Refund to State	2,981.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	2,981.00	

Unspent JCPC funding to be returned to State.

DSS

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
146100.674.010	Child Welfare State In-Home	22,151.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.035	Child Welfare State In-Home	22,151.00	

New 100% State Funding.

DSS

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
146100.689	Energy Neighbor Fund	460.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.031	Energy Neighbor Fund	460.00	

Funding authorization #6.

DSS

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
146100.689	Energy Neighbor Fund	462.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.031	Energy Neighbor Fund	462.00	

Funding authorization #7.

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DSS

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1461006160.535	Medicaid	745.64	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143591.010	Client Refund	745.64	

EPICS draft for August 2013.

D. County Attorney Invoices:

Date	Department	Amount
10/17/13	Sheriff's Office	\$ 9,975.00
10/17/13	Administrative Department	\$ 250.00
	Total	\$ 10,225.00

E. New World Systems Software Maintenance Agreement

F. Tax Refunds and Releases 9-13

G. Community Development Block Grant Monthly Performance Status Reports for September, 2013

H. FY 2014-15 NC Cardinal Grant Application to the North Carolina State Library

I. Elizabethtown Baptist Heart of Ministry Memorandum of Understanding

J. Bad Debt Write Off for Bladen County Health Department for FY 2012-2013

K. Accounts to be submitted by Bladen County Health Department to Finance Office for Debt Set Off Program for FY 2012-2013

L. Grant for Safe Kids in the Amount of \$100

M. Revised Notice of Privacy Practices with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Access to Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Acknowledgement of Privacy Notice

N. Reschedule Public Hearing for Monday, November 4, 2013 to Receive Comments Regarding Proposed Economic Incentive Grant Agreement with Gildan Yarns

O. AmeriLock Propane Pricing Program

ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

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

Name	Department	Years of Service
Sharon Blanks	Social Services	5
Sherrie Butler	Social Services	5
Bernadine Davis	Social Services	5
Rashida Fuller	Social Services	5
Connie Gaines	Social Services	10
Jacqueline Hilburn	Social Servies	10
Chuck Heustess	Economic Development	15
Joey Coleman	E M S	5
Kory Hair	Health Department	10
Apsie Murray	Health Department	20
Vicki Pait	Health Department	10
Betty Tedder	Health Department	20
Bennie Lennon	Jail	20
Gwenda Lesane	Jail	20
Cynthia Dowless	Library	30
Maggie Sykes	Library	35
Jillana Owens	Register of Deeds	5
Richard Allen	Sheriff's Office	5
Jeffrey Bridgers	Sheriff's Office	15
Sharlen Young	Sheriff's Office	30
Dean Morris	Soil Conservation	20
Steve Melson	Solid Waste	10
Joseph Smith	Solid Waste	5
Tina Burney	Water Department	25

A reception was held in honor of Employees for years of service.

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- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Blanks, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board adopted the following Resolution In Memory of Ivory Graham Daniels:



- C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board unanimously approved a \$200 appropriation to Bladen County United Way's Day of Caring.

ITEM 4. Individuals / Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one addressed the Board of Commissioners.

ITEM 5. Public Hearings:

- A. Chairman Smith declared open the Public Hearing to Receive Comments Regarding a Proposed Amendment to the Bladen County Zoning Ordinance. Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Smith declared the Public Hearing closed.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board approved to amend the Bladen County Zoning Ordinance to exempt telecommunications towers that are specifically used for emergency communications for county and state emergency personnel from obtaining a special use permit, thus reducing the permitting process.
- C. Chairman Smith declared open the Public Hearing to Receive Comments Regarding the Close-Out of the FY 2011 Community Development Block Grant NC-Tomorrow Grant Program. Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Smith declared the Public Hearing closed.
- D. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously approved the Close-Out of the FY 2011 CDBG NC-Tomorrow Grant Program.

ITEM 6. Human Resources Department: (Amy Pharr, Director)

- A. Mrs. Pharr provided an overview of the Proposed Social Media Policy. Following discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, to approve the Social Media Policy as presented. The motion carried by a vote of eight (8) AYES (Commissioners Smith, Cogdell, Blanks, Priest, Gillespie, Pait, Dowless and Edge), to one (1) NO (Commissioner Peterson).
- B. Mrs. Pharr presented the 2014 Health Insurance Premiums from the NC State Health Plan. She explained the Wellness Activities available to each employee and how completion of each activity will impact the monthly premium. If employees do not complete the available Wellness Activities, it will be their responsibility to pay the portion of the associated premium by payroll deduction. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board approved capping the monthly health insurance premium payment for each employee at \$461.67, a slight increase from the current year.

ITEM 7. Economic Development Commission: (Chuck Heustess, Director)

- A. Mr. Heustess, along with Dr. William Findt and Jeff Kornegay of Bladen Community College, provided an update regarding the Golden LEAF Grant application for a Machining Project. The Program will provide a STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) facility on the campus of Bladen Community College for training for more technical jobs, including machinists and machine operators. This Cooperative Program, with the Economic Development Commission, Bladen Community College and Bladen County Schools, will allow high school students to attend Bladen Community College on a dual education track.

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Commissioners Blanks and Cogdell inquired how information is being shared with the county's schools, students and community. Mr. Heustess, Dr. Findt and Mr. Kornegay explained that the high school advisors are assisting with recruitment for the program. Fifteen students participated in the curriculum last year, with an additional twelve enrolled currently.

ITEM 8. Bladen County Schools: (Sharon Penny, Finance Officer)

- A. Mrs. Penny provided an overview of the ongoing roof replacements at nine school facilities, and the applications for funds from the NC Education Lottery, Public School Building Capital Funds. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board approved the applications as submitted, totaling \$256,584.
- B. Mrs. Penny updated the Board regarding the Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) Debt Service Payment. As agreed upon, Bladen County Schools has reimbursed Bladen County for the annual payment related to the QSCB project. The auditors for the school system have recommended that Bladen County simply withhold from the Sales Tax revenue the amount required beyond IRS reimbursement. This is the same method used to fund the Sales Tax funded portion of the School Bond payment.

ITEM 9. Finance Department: (Lisa Coleman, Director)

- A. Mrs. Coleman provided an overview of the County's financial dashboard, using a more detailed format, for the month of September 2013.

ITEM 10. Revenue Department: (Chris Ellis, Tax Administrator)

- A. Mr. Ellis, along with Mrs. Lisa Coleman, provided an overview of the new Tag and Tax Together Program, the newly implemented system for vehicle registration renewals and payment of motor vehicle taxes. For the month of September, the county collected 65% of the motor vehicle taxes. However, the cost associated with the collection, processing and remittance by the State has escalated from the original amount of \$1.69. Currently, the county is being charged \$1.98 for each bill collected. The local license plate agency may charge a fee, and should a credit or debit card be accepted for payment, the associated fees will be the responsibility of the County. Mrs. Coleman stated that David Baker of the Department of Revenue recommended that each county charge the prorated share to municipalities, when applicable.
- B. Mr. Ellis requested the Board consider approving the sale of real property to the Town of Bladenboro. The County jointly owns a parcel of land (PIN 0268-11-75-0575) with the Town of Bladenboro, and the Town has requested to purchase the County's 50% interest. The Town initiated foreclosure on the parcel through the Johnson Law Firm. Since the Johnson Law Firm also represents the County and delinquent county taxes were owed on the parcel, the County is also named in the judgment. No bidders appeared at the auction; therefore both governmental units became joint owners. The Town requested to purchase the County's interest in this property for the amount which the County has invested. Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Blanks, the Board unanimously approved the sale of real property to the Town of Bladenboro for \$1,715.30.
- C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board scheduled a Board of Equalization and Review Meeting for Monday, November 4, 2013 at 5:45pm.

ITEM 11. Sheriff's Office: (Prentis Benston, Sheriff)

- A. Sheriff Benston requested the Board to consider awarding the service side arm for the sum of \$1 and a Gold Badge to a retired employee. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board unanimously approved the Sheriff's request for Herman Dunn.

ITEM 12. Bladen County Water District: (Randy Garner, Director)

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board entered into a session as Water District Board of Directors.
- B. Mr. Randy Garner provided background substantiating the request to terminate an agreement with Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, PA for Consulting Engineering Services related to the construction of the White's Crossroads Well. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by

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Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved the letter of termination regarding an Agreement with Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates, PA.

- C. Upon a motion by Commission Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board approved exiting from the session as Bladen County Water District Board of Directors.

ITEM 13. Advisory Board Appointments:

A. **East Arcadia Fire Service District Committee:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Blanks, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board reappointed Cleta Moseley and Curtis Andrews, and appointed Meredith Blanks Snowden to replace Charles Bennerman, with terms expiring on October 30, 2016.

B. **Keep Bladen Beautiful:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Edge the Board appointed Butch McMillian to replace Corrie Britt, with the term expiring on October 15, 2016; and appointed Xavier Daniels to fill the unexpired term of Darrell Page, with the term expiring on March 1, 2016.

C. **EMS Council:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board reappointed Greg Martin, Arthur Bullock and Pat Webb, with terms expiring on October 31, 2015.

ITEM 14. County Manager (Greg Martin)

A. Mr. Martin reviewed the calendars for October and November, 2013.

B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved an appropriation to the Bladen County Veteran's Day Committee in the amount of \$250.

Commissioner Blanks stated that there has been discussion regarding a potential firing range to be located in Pender County, near the firing range that is to be developed in the Carver's Creek area of Bladen County. She shared her concerns regarding community safety and noise, and asked that the Bladen County Zoning Ordinance be updated regarding permitting requirements for firing ranges. County Manager Greg Martin stated that Planning Director Greg Elkins is addressing this.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

James G. Smith, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board