A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, October 2, 2017 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:
Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Ray Britt, Vice Chairman
Arthur Bullock
G. Michael Cogdell
David R. Gooden
Ophelia Munn-Goins
Russell Priest
Ashley Trivette

Excused: Daniel Dowless

Attorney: Will Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order.

Reverend Larry Hayes, Good News Baptist Church, provided the Invocation. Guest 4-H’er Shonita Hayes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:
Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Items:
A. Amended Agenda, to include Item 4C-Mental Illness Awareness Week Proclamation and Presentation.
B. Minutes of September 18, 2017 Regular Meeting.
C. County Attorney Invoices.

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<tr>
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D. Agreement with CDW Government, LLC for Digital Forensic Malware Investigation
E. The following National 4-H Week Proclamation:

F. The following Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation:

G. Lease Agreement Renewal with Bladen’s Bloomin’/Agri-Industrial for Office Space.
H. Acknowledgement of Renewal Agreement with the Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Security.

ITEM 3. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address the Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.
ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:
A. Chairman Peterson recognized Bladen County 4-H Director Stacie Kinlaw along with 4-H representatives in attendance to receive an adopted proclamation. 4-H’er Arriel Staten read aloud a National 4-H Week Proclamation. Mrs. Kinlaw expressed appreciation to the Board for its continued support.
B. Chairman Peterson recognized Ms. Marjorie Lewis of Families First to receive an adopted proclamation. Chairman Peterson read aloud a Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation. Ms. Lewis expressed appreciation for the opportunity to bring attention to the issue.
C. Chairman Peterson recognized Ms. Cheryl Harris of Eastpointe to receive a proclamation. Chairman Peterson read aloud a Mental Illness Awareness Week Proclamation. Ms. Harris expressed appreciation to the Board and shared contact information for those who are seeking assistance.

ITEM 5. Public Hearing:
A. Chairman Peterson declared open a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding needs in relation to the Hurricane Matthew related Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding. No one addressed the Board. Chairman Peterson declared closed the Public Hearing.

ITEM 6. Emergency Services: (Bradley Kinlaw, Director)
A. Mr. Kinlaw provided an overview of a proposed Memorandum of Agreement regarding a Disaster Short-Term Housing Assistance Program (DSHAP) to be administered through the Bladen County Department of Social Services. The DSHAP program can assist Hurricane Matthew survivors with temporary rental assistance and associated costs for a period of two (2) months. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved a Memorandum of Agreement regarding a Disaster Short-Term Housing Assistance Program.
B. Mr. Kinlaw provided an overview of a proposed False Fire Alarm Ordinance. He stated that this ordinance would give county Fire Departments the authority and standard procedure to bill for nuisance fire alarms.
C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously scheduled a Public Hearing for 6:30pm on Monday, October 16, 2017 to receive comments regarding a proposed False Alarm Ordinance.

ITEM 7. Revenue Department: (Renee Davis, Tax Assessor)
A. Mrs. Davis provided an overview of a bid for county-owned property (Parcel ID’s: 0000218 and 0044499). Located at Sunny Lane off of Twisted Hickory Road, the property was foreclosed by the county in 2017. Mr. Wayne Bryant submitted a bid of $5,500 on September 28, 2017. The county’s expense at the time of foreclosure was $5,500. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously accepted Mr. Bryant’s bid to begin the upset bid process.

ITEM 8. Sheriff’s Office: (Jim McVicker, Sheriff)
A. Sheriff McVicker provided information regarding an agreement for the County of Bladen to participate in a Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program. Sheriff McVicker stated that initially forty (40) beds would be identified for the program which could generate $40 daily for each misdemeanant placed in Bladen County’s Detention Center. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety.
B. Sheriff McVicker summarized an agreement for Bladen County to participate in a Local Task Force regarding illicit drug traffic in the Wilmington area. He
stated that being included on the Task Force would provide additional support to Bladen County Law Enforcement as well.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved an agreement with the US Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regarding participation in a Local Task Force.

C. Sheriff McVicker provided additional information regarding a request to approve an Equitable Sharing position related to a Local Task Force Agreement. He stated that Equitable Sharing positions are to fund only civil officers and can not be used to fund an officer who may participate in a Local Task Force. He amended the request for a civil officer to be funded by Equitable Sharing Funds so that a Bladen County Investigator can serve on a local task force.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a civil officer position to be funded by Equitable Sharing funds.

ITEM 9. Computer Operations: (Robin Hewett, Director)

A. Mr. Hewett provided a detailed overview of a recent computer virus which was introduced to the County’s network through an infected email delivered in mid-August. The EMOTET virus spread throughout the county via email which caused a shutdown of the county email server.

Mr. Hewett stated that a forensic specialist had been employed to assist in determining if any confidential information may have been compromised. Mr. Hewett reported that following many different activities to assure system integrity, it appeared that no information had been compromised.

The Board expressed appreciation for Mr. Hewett’s hard work and diligence to handle the situation. The Board asked Mr. Hewett to share its appreciation to all who assisted in the process.

ITEM 10. General Services Department: (Kip McClary, Director)

A. Health and Human Services Agency Director David Howard joined Mr. McClary to provide an update to the Board regarding recent GenX testing of the Bladen County water supply. Mr. McClary stated that six (6) county wells had been tested, along with finished water at two (2) locations. Test results were received on September 28 and September 29, 2017. There were no detections at four (4) well sites and one (1) finished water location. Two (2) well sites and one (1) finished water supply tested positive at 11 parts per trillion (ppt). The Department of Environmental Quality has identified 140ppt to be safe for consumption. However, a reportable “detect” amount of 10ppt has been identified by the Department of Environmental Quality.

Mr. McClary and Mr. Howard stated that Chemours is now providing bottled water to a number of homeowners in the vicinity.

Mr. McClary also stated that the Bladen County Water District engineering firm had been contacted to begin a process to estimate the cost to expand the county water system to residences in close proximity of Chemours.

ITEM 11. Advisory Board Appointments:

A. Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority (2): Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board, waiving the policy on terms, unanimously reappointed Judy Bowen to a six-year term of service, with the term expiring August 16, 2023. No action was taken regarding Mr. Breckenridge’s seat.

B. Keep Bladen Beautiful (3): Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously reappointed Erin Smith, Marlena Diehm, and Sondra Guyton to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring September 30, 2020; appointed West Bladen High School representative Alexis Ray to an unexpired term of service, with the term expiring April 20, 2018.
C. Planning Board (1): Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously appointed Evan Britt to an unexpired term of service, with the term expiring June 30, 2019.

D. Voluntary Agricultural Districts Committee (1): Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously reappointed Ralph Carter to a three year term of service, with the term expiring September 30, 2020.

ITEM 12. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration at the October 16, 2017 Meeting:

A. Keep Bladen Beautiful (1)

ITEM 13. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of October and November, 2017.

B. Mr. Martin provided information regarding HR 3729 and proposed Medicaid ambulance transport reimbursement reduction. Mr. Martin stated that if this legislation passed, it would negatively affect Bladen County’s ability to provide dialysis ambulance transportation.

By consensus, the Board asked Mr. Martin to write to Senators Burr and Tillis to support the passage of S967-2017-Medicare Ambulance Access, Fraud Prevention, and Reform Act, rather than HR 3729-Comprehensive Operations, Sustainability, and Transport Act of 2017.

ITEM 14. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address the Commissioners:

Mrs. Melissa Hill addressed the Board regarding her family’s water supply and information regarding GenX. Mrs. Hill stated that she received a generic letter from Chemours stating that her family would be supplied bottled water, as her private well had tested positive for GenX. However, she was not told the level at which GenX was detected in her well water. She shared her concern and frustration regarding the ongoing health and well-being of her family. She has not been contacted by anyone regarding the next steps to be taken to address the issue.

The Board expressed appreciation and understanding of her concerns. Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Martin and General Services Director Kip McClary to contact LKC Engineering in order to expedite a project to determine the cost associated with extending the Bladen County water system to Bladen County residents in close proximity to the Chemours/Dupont property.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:25pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman

Bladen County Board of Commissioners