

October 21, 2019

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, October 21, 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
- David R. Gooden
- Michael Cogdell
- Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins
- Daniel Dowless
- Ray Britt
- Russell Priest
- Ashley Trivette
- Arthur Bullock

Attorney: Will Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Reverend Mark Miller, Clarkton First Baptist Church, provided an invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

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

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of the October 7, 2019 Regular Meeting.
- C. Minutes of the October 16, 2019 Special Meeting.
- D. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Governing Board

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104100.740	Capital Outlay	105,526.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	105,526.00	

For purchase of the Paul H. Sessoms property.

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	185.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	185.00	

County Property #0021012 Angeline Powell.

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	190.00	
104500.270	Advertising	105.86	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	295.86	

County Property #0009923 & 0009927 to Jeriod Long.

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	1,421.90	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	1,421.90	

#0588 (2016 Dodge Charger) Insurance Claim.

Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.200.016	Supplies-Surplus	3,100.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103270.018	SH-HELO	3,100.00	

Sale of Helicopter parts.

Animal Control

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105200.499.028	Spay/Neuter Grant	4,395.97	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103260.041	Spay/Neuter Grant	4,395.97	

April-June 2019 Grant Application

October 21, 2019

Division on Aging

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6235.499	Miscellaneous Expense	4,699.00	
106200.6230.499	Miscellaneous Expense		1,175.00
Revenues			
103530.020	Senior Center General Purpose	3,524.00	

Additional Senior Center General Purpose allocation.

Extension - Juntos

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106500.6502.310.004	HS Bus Mileage	1,200.00	
106500.6502.310.005	MS Bus Mileage	800.00	
106500.6502.395.104	THMS Parent Night	1,500.00	
106500.6502.395.105	WBHS/EBHS Family Nights	1,200.00	
106500.6502.610.019	Contract Services – Bus Driver	300.00	
Revenues			
103230.029	Extension-Juntos	5,000.00	

Juntos budget for Extension (15 Middle School Students and 30 High School Students).

Parks and Recreation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106600.499	Miscellaneous Recreation	2,314.00	
106600.900.001	CC Fees	417.30	
Revenues			
103660.009	Recreation Donations	2,314.00	
103660.014	Recreation CC Fees	417.30	

Aggression Replacement JCPC refund.

JCPC

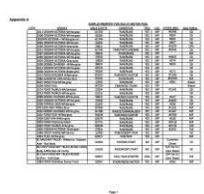
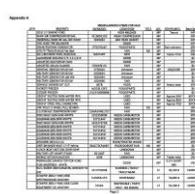
<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106805.640	JCPC-Refund to State	2,355.00	
Revenues			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	2,355.00	

Aggression Replacement JCPC refund.

E. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
10/03/2019	E M S	900.00
10/03/2019	Governing Board	300.00
10/02/2019	Board of Elections	500.00
10/03/2019	Water District	1,025.00
10/03/2019	Planning Department	2,500.00
10/10/2019	Water District	1,025.00
	Total	\$ 6,250.00

- F. Tax Releases No. 9-19, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.
- G. Fireworks Display at Camp Clearwater Fall Festival at 8:15pm on Saturday, October 26, 2019 or Undetermined Rain Date in Accordance with NCGS 14:410-413.
- H. FY 2019 North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) in the Amount of \$20,625.
- I. The following Resolution, and Appendix, Authorizing the Sale of Certain County Property at Public Auction Scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2019:



ITEM 3. Special Recognition:

- A. The entire Board recognized Alisha Evans upon her retirement effective June 1, 2019. Ms. Evans served the County of Bladen from January 1998 until her retirement. She served most recently as GIS-E911 Addressing Supervisor.

October 21, 2019

Emergency Services Director Nathan Dowless also expressed appreciation to Ms. Evans' for her tenure as an integral part of Emergency Services.

- B. The entire Board recognized each of the following employees for years of service:

Employee	Department	Years of Service
Monica Whitfield	Detention	5
David Shaw	Detention	20
Rebecca Roberts	DSS	5
Debra Jones	DSS	15
Carla Burney	DSS	15
Linda Clark	Economic Development	15
Maria Padilla	Health Department	15
Sheila Bryan	Health Department	20
Linda Graham	Housekeeping	10

- C. Chairman Peterson briefly recessed the meeting at 6:44pm for a reception.

Chairman Peterson reconvened the meeting at 6:57pm.

ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

ITEM 5. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

- A. Animal Control Advisory Board Chairman Mike Jackson and Animal Control Advisory Board Member Eddie Knight addressed the Board regarding a request for an additional part-time employee to assist with duties which have delayed performance of Animal Control Officers' assigned job duties. Mr. Jackson indicated that providing nuisance call services has been recently extended to 2 weeks. He provided a funding estimate of \$7,300 (for the period of November 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020) for this additional position.

Chairman Peterson stated that the Board would take the Animal Control Advisory Board's request under advisement and will inform the advisory board when a decision is made.

Chairman Peterson asked that the request be included on the November 4, 2019 Board meeting agenda for consideration.

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Knight expressed appreciation and invited Board members to tour the Animal Shelter.

ITEM 6. Public Hearing:

- A. Chairman Peterson declared open a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a FY 2020-21 NC Department of Transportation Community Transportation Program Application.

No one addressed the Board.

Chairman Peterson declared closed the Public Hearing.

- B. Bladen Area Rural Transportation System (BARTS) Department Manager Kent Porter was on hand to address any comments, concerns, or questions regarding the application.

Commissioner Cogdell inquired if this program would allow for expansion or additional vehicles. Mr. Porter stated that these funds are for operations only, and not for vehicles and other assets.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a FY2021 Public Transportation Program Resolution and Supporting Documentation.

- C. Chairman Peterson declared open a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

No one addressed the Board.

Chairman Peterson declared closed the Public Hearing.

October 21, 2019

- D. Planning Director Greg Elkins was on hand to address any concerns, comments or questions from the Board regarding Ordinance amendments. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously adopted an amended Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

ITEM 7. Bladen County Schools: (Sharon Penny, Finance Officer)

- A. In Mrs. Penny's absence, the County Manager Greg Martin provided an overview of the capital outlay projects list and the requested reimbursement in the amount of \$292,220.99. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Capital Outlay Projects Reimbursement Request in the amount of \$292,220.99.

ITEM 8. Bladen Community College/Bladen County Sheriff's Office Joint Project: (Sondra Guyton, BCC Vice President for Workforce and Continuing Education)

- A. Ms. Guyton reviewed a proposed driving pad project to be constructed on the Bladen County Training Center property. She reminded the Board there is an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant opportunity which requires a 20% match to assist in funding an estimated \$6,500,000 project. A successful EDA grant application could generate 80% (\$5.2M). A successfully received Golden LEAF Foundation grant could provide the 20% match (\$1.3M).

Commissioner Munn-Goins inquired regarding data related to participation in other driving schools in the region such as Fayetteville Technical Community College and Sandhills Community College. Ms. Guyton provided an overview of the Sampson Community College driving program and participation.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board approved developing a letter of intent from the County to provide the 20% match (\$1.3M) from Fund Balance to support the driving pad project in the event that the Golden LEAF Foundation Communities Based Grant Initiative application is not successful. The motion carried by a vote of eight (8) AYES (Cogdell, Gooden, Priest, Trivette, Britt, Peterson, Dowless, Bullock) to one (1) NO (Munn-Goins).

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

- A. Mrs. Coleman reviewed a Financial Dashboard for the three-month period ending September 30, 2019.

Chairman Peterson expressed appreciation for the update and asked that all efforts remain in place to maintain the financial strength of the County.

Commissioner Cogdell inquired regarding recent Sales Tax trends. Mrs. Coleman stated that Article 39 Sales Tax revenue has decreased. However, she stated that she was not aware if this is a trend or perhaps the effect of Hurricanes Matthew and Florence.

ITEM 10. Revenue Department: (Renee Davis, Tax Assessor/Administrator)

- A. Ms. Davis provided an overview of a bid in the amount of \$5,700 for County-owned property (PIN No. 1206 0529 2678) located at 194 West Hester Street, Clarkton, which carries an assessed tax value of \$20,320. The bid was submitted by Jeremy and Stacie Richardson on October 16, 2019. She further stated that the bid of \$5,700 does cover the County's investment of \$5,700. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously accepted the bid in the amount of \$5,700 for the 0.15 acre tract of land (PIN No. 1206 0529 2678). By accepting the bid submitted by Jeremy and Stacie Richardson, the upset bid process was initiated.
- B. Ms. Davis provided a brief overview of a bid in the amount of \$13,620 for County-owned property (PIN Nos. 1249 0080 8098, 1249 0090 1243, 1249

0090 5369, 1249 0090 3479) located on Airport Road. Mr. Ronnie McLean submitted the bid on October 15, 2019. She stated that the 8.81 acre tract of land carries an assessed tax value of \$93,830, with an investment to the County of \$13,620. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously accepted the bid in the amount of \$13,620 for the County-owned property (PIN Nos. 1249 0080 8098, 1249 0090 1243, 1249 0090 5369, 1249 0090 3479). By accepting the bid, the upset bid process was initiated.

ITEM 11. Department of Social Services: (Vickie Smith, Director)

- A. Ms. Smith, Program Administrator Lisa Nance and HHS Director Dr. Terri Duncan provided an overview of results regarding the Adult Medicaid Program audit results. Dr. Duncan further explained an amended presentation which groups the team results, instead of by employee (designated by Employee A, Employee B, etc.). Following discussion, the Board expressed appreciation for the updated results. However, Board members' general consensus was communicated to provide results by employee in order to efficiently and effectively identify additional training needs.

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

- A. Dr. Duncan and Health Educator Travis Greer provided a review of a recently state approved 2018 Community Health Assessment (CHA). Mr. Greer stated that the CHA is based on community priorities which have been identified through surveys and collaborative partners throughout the County. The Summary of Finding shows priority areas of concern to be 1) Exercise, Nutrition and Weight; 2) Maternal, Fetal and Infant Health; and 3) Substance Abuse. He further stated that Material, Fetal and Infant Health is a new or emerging issue with approximately 12.9% infants born preterm in Bladen County does not meet the Health People 2020 Goal of 9.4%. Mr. Greer shared that the 2018 CHA was submitted prior to May 2, 2019 and was approved by the NC Department of Health and Human Services on July 24, 2019. Action plans based on findings will be completed during this fiscal year. Mr. Greer expressed appreciation to the Board for its ongoing support of efforts and advances being realized through the Bladen County Opioid Task Force and Healthy Bladen Collaborative.
- B. Dr. Duncan provided an overview of a Professional Services Agreement with Columbus County Health Department to provide for medical and other health care services. She further stated that the Health and Human Services Advisory Board, during the October 14, 2019 meeting, provided its recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Professional Services Agreement the Columbus County Health Department.
- C. Following discussion regarding no changes in the influenza vaccine cost and pricing, and upon motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously approved FY 2019-20 Influenza Vaccine Pricing Structure. Commissioner Cogdell inquired regarding cost to indigent individuals who may request an influenza vaccine. Dr. Duncan stated that if the individual had no insurance, they would be considered "self-pay" and would be required to pay \$45 for their vaccine. However, she stated that Bladen We Care might be able to financially assist an indigent individual in need of a vaccine.
- D. Dr. Duncan provided a brief overview of a Contractual Agreement with Nutrition Plus to provide Dietitian Services through October 31, 2019. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously approved a Contractual Agreement with Nutrition Plus to provide Dietitian Services through October 31, 2019.
- E. Dr. Duncan provided an overview of a Contractual Agreement with Nutrition Plus to provide Dietitian Services from November 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by

Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Contractual Agreement with Nutrition Plus to provide Dietitian Services from November 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

- F. In Director of Nursing Tiffany Pait's absence, Dr. Duncan provided an overview of a developed Family Planning Services Funding Application to be submitted to the Division of Public Health. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Family Planning Services Funding Application.
- G. Dr. Duncan presented for consideration an amended HHSA Director Job Description. She indicated that annual review of the HHSA Director Job Description is required for agency accreditation. She stated that Bladen County Home Health and related responsibilities have been deleted; and Bladen County Division on Aging and Bladen Area Rural Transportation System (BARTS) have now been included. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved an amended HHSA Director Job Description.

ITEM 13. Emergency Services: (Nathan Dowless, Director)

- A. Mr. Dowless presented two (2) restructured job descriptions, Emergency Services Public Safety IT Supervisor and GIS/E911 Public Safety IT Coordinator. He stated that the current IT position for the Sheriff's Office would assume job duties of the GIS/911 Supervisor position which will be vacant effective November 2, 2019. The current GIS/911 Supervisor position would be restructured to Emergency Services GIS/911 Public Safety IT Coordinator and report directly to the Emergency Services Public Safety IT Supervisor. He also stated that the restructuring will not require additional funding, as the two positions would be funded the current IT position at the Sheriff's Office, and the vacant salary of the former GIS/911 Supervisor position. Mr. Dowless noted efficiencies and cost savings by restructuring these two positions.
Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved the restructuring of the two (2) job descriptions, Emergency Services Public Safety IT Supervisor and GIS/E911 Public Safety IT Coordinator.
- B. Mr. Dowless presented a Part-Time Emergency Services Administrative Assistant I position and job description for approval. Mr. Dowless indicated that due to a reduction in call volume with Emergency Medical Services (EMS), vacant salary budget has been identified which could provide funding for the new part time position to assist with Emergency Services matters, including housing related to Hurricanes Matthew and Florence.
Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved a Part-Time Emergency Services Administrative Assistant I position.

ITEM 14. Advisory Board Appointments:

- A. **East Arcadia Fire District Advisory Committee (3):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Cleta Moseley; reappointed Calee Brown, and Meredith Snowden, to three-year terms of service, with the term expiring October 30, 2022.
- B. **Jury Commission (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Mr. Jerry Graham to a two-year term of service, with the term expiring December 9, 2021.
- C. **Keep Bladen Beautiful (3):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously appointed Allison Rockenbach to a three-year term, with the term expiring December 31, 2021; and appointed West Bladen High School Senior Autumn Brisson to an unexpired term, with the term expiring April 20, 2021. An East Bladen

October 21, 2019

High School student representative is expected to be recommended at a future meeting.

ITEM 15. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During November 18, 2019 Meeting:

- A. Bay Tree Lakes Fire District Committee (1)
- B. Clarkton Fire District Committee (2)

ITEM 16. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of October and November 2019.

Mr. Martin stated that a Road Naming Dedication Ceremony for Robert Mazur Drive at the Bladen County Park has been tentatively scheduled for 5:30pm on Monday, November 4, 2019.

Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Martin to make plans to recognize all Bladen County Veterans for Veterans' Day 2020.

- B. Mr. Martin provided an overview of a Third Party Benefits Administrator Service Contract with Lacy West-Thomas Insurance Agency for the benefit year of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Mr. Martin further stated that a review with the Board of Commissioners will be scheduled early in the third quarter of 2020 to gather feedback. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved a Third Party Benefits Administrator Service Contract with Lacy West-Thomas Insurance Agency for the benefit year of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

- C. Mr. Martin reviewed a Golden LEAF Foundation Community Based Grants Initiative opportunity. He reminded the Board that this was the hopeful grant opportunity that, if successfully received, could provide the 20% match for the driving pad project (\$1.3M) to be constructed on the Bladen County Training Center property. He stated that the deadline to submit the letter of interest is noon on November 1, 2019. It is anticipated that projects from a particular county could be awarded up to \$1.5M for one to three projects. The Foundation board is scheduled to meet in December and notify the most competitive projects to submit full applications. A final decision has been scheduled for April 2020.

Mr. Martin reminded the Board that this route for funds was not a certainty, as there are a number of projects which may be submitted for consideration. He further stated that a regional project in which Bladen Community College is involved, with the grant application in the amount of \$200,000, may be considered a Bladen County project, or may be considered a stand-alone project by the Golden LEAF Foundation.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Golden LEAF Foundation Community Based Grants Initiative application for the benefit of the joint driving pad project to be constructed on the Bladen County Training Center property.

ITEM 16. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell inquired regarding a listing of County-owned property. Mr. Martin recognized Tax Administrator Renee Davis in the audience to address the question. Mrs. Davis stated that a list of properties owned by the County is kept current and is accessible on the County website, under the Tax Administration Department tab. She stated that there are approximately 40 properties on the current list. Commissioner Cogdell inquired regarding the possibility of individuals offering less than the County's investment for a specific property.

October 21, 2019

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Bullock to address the Board. Commissioner Bullock inquired of Finance Officer Lisa Coleman regarding increases in solid waste disposal and whether or not waste being deposited in Bladen County from non-residents could be a factor. Mrs. Coleman indicated that the numbers from solid waste convenience sites in close proximity of the county line do not indicate that specifically. However, tonnage has increased overall.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners