

November 4, 2019

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 4, 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: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

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

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

Prior to approving the Consent items, Chairman Peterson asked the Board to consider removing Item 14-Closed Session from the Agenda.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously removed item 14-Closed Session.

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

- A. Amended Agenda, with the removal of Item 14-Closed Session.
- B. Minutes of the October 21, 2019 Regular Meeting.
- C. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Planning

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104220.270	Advertising	500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103110.001	Planning Cell Towers	500.00	

Fees for advertising public hearing and certified letters.

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	193.00	
104500.270	Advertising	500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	693.00	

County Property 0045710/223 Graham Rd/Horace Munn.

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	373.00	
104500.270	Advertising	239.02	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	612.02	

County Property 0014781 Peanut Plant Rd & 0014782 Richardson Rd.

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	6,000.00	
104500.192.002	Professional Services Foreclosures	6,500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103170.040	Sale of Assets	12,500.00	

Foreclosures/Attorney Invoices.

Computer Ops/GIS

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104600.120	Salaries		31,011.58
104600.122	Bonus		174.00
104600.181	FICA		2,385.70
104600.182	Retirement		2,809.82
104600.183	Group Insurance		4,318.24
104600.185	Retiree Health Insurance		2,017.71
104700.120	Salaries	31,011.58	
104700.122	Bonus	174.00	

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104700.181	FICA	2,385.70	
104700.182	Retirement	2,809.82	
104700.183	Group Insurance	4,318.24	
104700.185	Retiree Health Insurance	2,017.71	

Transfer position from Computer Ops to GIS approved at BOCC 10/21/2019.

Jail/Central Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105000.351	M/R Jail Fees	6,236.27	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103260.017	Miscellaneous Jail Fees	6,236.27	

Reimbursement from Robeson County for Jail Repairs from Inmates breaking sprinklers.

Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.499	Miscellaneous Expense	3,375.15	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103270.009	Sheriff Donations	3,375.15	

Funds donated for a new sign at the Public Safety Training Center.

Animal Control

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105200.499.028	Spay/Neuter Grant	3,942.77	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103260.041	Spay/Neuter Grant	3,942.77	

July-September 2019 Grant Application

Water

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
254702.325	Postage	476.46	
<i>Revenues</i>			
253190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	476.46	

Refund for postage for return of postage machine.

D. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
10/17/2019	Governing Board	1,550.00
10/14/2019	Water District	5,000.00
10/23/2019	Board of Elections	450.00
	Total	\$ 7,000.00

E. FY 2019-20 US Department of Health and Human Services, State Health Insurance Assistance Program Contract for the Benefit of Division on Aging.

F. Procurement Contract for the Provision of Services with Eastpointe.

ITEM 3. Special Recognition:

A. The entire Board recognized Animal Shelter Supervisor Karen Suggs upon her initiative to successfully apply for a \$50,000 Petco Foundation Grant. Ms. Suggs was notified of the grant award and received funding on September 18, 2019. The funding will assist in constructing a proposed Puppy/Bite Quarantine Isolation Area. Health and Human Services Agency Director Dr. Terri Duncan congratulated Ms. Suggs as well. Ms. Suggs was presented with a one-time cash award in the amount of \$500.

ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Chairman Peterson provided an update regarding the Kelly Levee flood gates. He stated that Four County Electric Cooperative had donated \$25,000 to fund the repair of the flood gates. He also shared that the \$300,000 in State assistance is forthcoming to fund an engineering study to renovate the levee to restore it to US Army Corps of Engineers standards.

Chairman Peterson also invited and encouraged all in attendance to attend a Veterans Day Ceremony which is scheduled for 11am on Thursday, November 7, 2019 and will be held at the Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church.

ITEM 5. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

- A. Chairman Peterson recognized Mr. Robert Brooks to address the Board. Mr. Brooks expressed appreciation and introduced himself. He stated that his late father, Paul Brooks, had been recognized as one of the Original 22 Siouan Indians of the Lumber River. He requested that the Board consider adopting a Resolution in recognition of his late father.
The entire Board voiced its support of Mr. Brooks' efforts. Chairman Peterson asked County Manager Greg Martin to correspond with Mr. Brooks to develop a Resolution for the Board's consideration.
- B. Chairman Peterson recognized Mr. Don Melvin to address the Board. Mr. Melvin expressed appreciation for the opportunity to voice his concerns and request assistance in his ongoing efforts to have property adjacent to his property cleared of abandoned items. He also provided each of the Board members information regarding a recent arrest.

ITEM 6. Sheriff's Office: (Sheriff Jim McVicker)

- A. Sheriff McVicker introduced NC Juvenile Justice System representative Jim Speight and Deputy Director Annie Harvey to provide an overview of a NC Juvenile Justice Housing program. Mr. Speight, citing a recent legislative amendment known as "Raise the Age", expressed the need for additional juvenile detention facilities throughout North Carolina. He stated that a number of detention centers have shown interest in temporarily housing juveniles, as has the Bladen County Sheriff. A number of specific standards must be in place prior to actually housing juveniles, such as an additional fence, and other "sight/sound" measures to ensure separation from the adult population.
Following additional information, the Board, by consensus, expressed approval for the Sheriff's Office to continue the process and upgrades to be able to participate in the NC Juvenile Justice Housing program.
- B. Sheriff McVicker introduced Eastern District US Marshal Mike East and Deputy Marshal Nate Mason to provide information regarding a Federal Inmate Housing program.
- C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved entering into an agreement with the US Marshal's Office to participate in a Federal Inmate Housing Program. Sheriff McVicker indicated that an agreement is being developed and should be available for execution within a few days.

Chairman Peterson commended Sheriff McVicker and the Sheriff's Office staff for continuing their work to bring these two revenue-generating opportunities to the County.

ITEM 7. NC Department of Transportation: (Ken Clark, District Engineer)

- A. Mr. Clark presented a Request for Morganwood Estates Drive to be added to the State Maintained Secondary Road System. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously approved the following request for Morganwood Estates Drive to be added to the State Maintained Secondary Road System:



- B. Mr. Clark presented a Request for Old Hickory Lane to be added to the State Maintained Secondary Road System. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved the following request for Old Hickory Lane to be added to the State Maintained Secondary Road System:

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- C. Mr. Clark presented a Request for Westwood Drive and Westwood Circle to be added to the State Maintained Secondary Road System. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved the following request for Westwood Drive and Westwood Circle to be added to the State Maintained Secondary Road System:



ITEM 8. Revenue Department: (Renee Davis, Tax Administrator/Assessor)

- A. Ms. Davis provided an overview of a bid in the amount of \$6,000 for County-owned property (PIN No. 0339 0082 0546) located at 2555 Bladen Union Church Road. She stated that the bid was submitted by Hood Land Company on October 23, 2019 on the 2.27 acre tract of land. She further stated that the County foreclosed the property in 2016, and the current investment to the County is \$8,400. Commissioner Gooden made a motion to accept the bid submitted by Hood Land Company. However, the motion died for lack of a second.
- Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously declined the \$6,000 bid on the County owned property (PIN No. 0339 0082 0546) located at 2555 Bladen Union Church Road.

ITEM 9. Emergency Services: (Nathan Dowless, Director)

- A. Mr. Dowless provided a brief overview of a month-to-month Lease Agreement with Horne, LLP, the State's contractor to be located in the chapel at the Public Safety Training Center to administer CBDG awards to local residents. Mr. Dowless stated that Horne, LLP staff has been on site since the former contractor, IEM, had departed. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved a month-to-month Lease Agreement with Horne, LLP.
- B. Mr. Dowless briefly reviewed a number of forms and documentation which had been requested to further support a CDBG-DR Grant award related to a Bladenboro Drainage Study. He stated that the \$47,250 grant award would assist in funding an engineered drainage study. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved the required forms and documentation regarding a CDBG-DR Grant award related to a Bladenboro Drainage Study.
- C. Mr. Dowless presented a request submitted by the Bladen County Fire Chiefs Association. The association had requested the Board's consideration to fund a full-time position to be housed at the Bladen County Training Center to provide maintenance and grounds-keeping for the facility. Following discussion, the Board expressed appreciation.

ITEM 10. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During November 18, 2019 Board Meeting:

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

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ITEM 11. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During December 16, 2019 Board Meeting:

- A. Ammon Fire Department Firefighter's Relief Fund Board (1)
- B. BARTS Advisory Board (6)
- C. Bay Tree Lakes Fire Department Firefighter's Relief Fund Board (1)
- D. Division on Aging Advisory Committee (2)
- E. East Arcadia Fire Department Firefighter's Relief Fund Board (1)
- F. Economic Development Commission (3)
- G. Health and Human Services Agency Advisory Board (4)
- H. Hickory Grove Fire Department Firefighter's Relief Fund Board (1)
- I. Kelly Fire Department Firefighter's Relief Fund Board (1)
- J. Library Board (3)
- K. Lisbon Fire Department Firefighter's Relief Fund Board (1)
- L. Tar Heel Fire Department Firefighter's Relief Fund Board (1)
- M. Tobermory Fire Department Firefighter's Relief Fund Board (1)
- N. White Oak Fire Department Firefighter's Relief Fund Board (1)

ITEM 12. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

ITEM 13. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of November and December 2019.
- B. Mr. Martin provided a review of a presentation by the Animal Control Advisory Board Chairman Mike Jackson and Board member Eddie Knight during a previous meeting regarding a request for a part-time Animal Shelter position. Mr. Martin indicated that, if approved by the Board, the part-time position would need to be funded from unassigned Fund Balance. He further stated that the position would require approximately \$7,300 through the end of FY 2019-20. Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously approved an additional part-time Animal Shelter position.

ITEM 14. Closed Session:

Removed from the Agenda. See item 2 above.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners