

November 19, 2018

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, November 19, 2018 in the Commissioners’ Room located on the lower level of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

- Ray Britt, Chairman
- G. Michael Cogdell, Vice Chairman (arrived at 6:37pm)
- Charles R. Peterson
- Arthur Bullock
- Daniel Dowless
- David R. Gooden
- Russell Priest
- Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins
- Ashley Trivette (arrived at 6:37pm)

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Reverend Larry Hayes of Good News Baptist Church provided the Invocation. Guest 4-H’ers Ellie and Kynslie Kinlaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

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

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of November 5, 2018 Regular Meeting.
- C. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Division on Aging - Admin

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6201.200	Supplies		500.00
106200.6201.200.018	Supplies - Computer		1,250.00
106200.6201.270	Advertising		1,500.00
106200.6201.270.001	Promotional Items		575.00
106200.6201.325	Postage		149.00
106200.6201.325	Printing		2,201.00
106200.6201.352.001	M/R Office/Computer Equipment		3,052.00
106200.6201.310	Travel		250.00
106200.6201.321	Telephone		750.00
106200.6201.352.002	M/R Communication Equipment		1,255.00
106200.6201.395	Schools & Meetings		1,700.00
106200.6201.610.007	CS-Communication Equipment		245.00
106200.6201.353.001	Lease-Reproduction Equipment		1,500.00
Revenues			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriations		14,927.00

BARTS Administration Budget to mirror with State.

Administration/Economic Development

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106900.901	To Economic Development	10,000.00	
307200.910.001	Product Development	10,000.00	
Revenues			
103190.051	FBA-Product Development	10,000.00	
303422.002	FM General Fund	10,000.00	

Approved funding for Small Business-Incubator Building in Elizabethtown.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.298	TRIP Funding	6,000.00	
Revenues			
143531.213	TRIP Funding	6,000.00	

100% Federal Reimbursement to help with taxes, insurance and tags for Foster Care teens – when purchasing a vehicle.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106900.903	To DSS	26,610.00	
146100.6160.814	DSHAP-Short Term Housing	26,610.00	
Revenues			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	26,610.00	
143550.080	Fm General Fund	26,610.00	

Rollover unspent DSHAP Disaster Short Term Housing Funds.

D. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
10/03/2018	Kelly Dike District	975.00
10/23/2018	Kelly Dike District	525.00
11/16/2018	General Services Department	675.00
11/16/2018	Sheriff's Office	795.00
	Total	\$ 2,970.00

- E. Public Hearing Scheduled for 6:30pm on Monday, December 3, 2018 to Receive Comments Regarding a Rezoning Request.
- F. Tax Releases No. 10-18.
- G. Legal Services Contract with Johnson & Johnson, Attorneys at Law, PLLC, Regarding Bladen County Disaster Recovery Act (DRA-2017 and HM DRA-2017) and Hurricane Matthew Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP-Matthew) Programs.
- H. Asbestos Inspection/Abatement Services Contract with Keenan Construction and Consulting Company Regarding Bladen County Disaster Recovery Act (DRA-2017 and HM DRA-2017) and Hurricane Matthew Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP-Matthew) Programs.
- I. Professional Surveying Services Contract with Walker Surveying Company Regarding Bladen County Disaster Recovery Act (DRA-2017 and HM DRA-2017) and Hurricane Matthew Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP-Matthew) Programs.
- J. North Carolina Department of Public Safety Emergency Planning Grant Agreement in the Amount of \$20,625.
- K. The following Proclamation Recognizing National Hospice and Palliative Care Month:



Commissioner Trivette and Vice Chair Cogdell entered the meeting.

ITEM 3. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

- A. Chairman Britt recognized Lower Cape Fear Hospice Representative Lindsey Hinson to address the Board. Ms. Hinson serves as a Community Outreach Coordinator for Lower Cape Fear Hospice. She expressed appreciation for the Board's ongoing support of the services provided to county residents. Chairman Britt presented a Proclamation recognizing November 2018 as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month. Clerk to the Board Maria Edwards read aloud the Proclamation.

Chairman Britt recognized Sabrina Murchison to address the Board. Ms. Murchison provided information regarding the County's Longevity Pay Plan. The plan was developed to incentivize long-term employees by providing an annual compensation check following each employee's five-year anniversary. In order to be considered a Longevity check recipient, the employee's five-year anniversary date must be October 31 or prior. Ms. Murchison stated that her full-time hire date is November 3, 2013. She requested that the Board consider a revision to the policy. Chairman Britt expressed understanding and appreciation of Ms. Murchison's request. He further stated that he did not know how to justify revising a policy for one individual and not including other employees. Mr. Martin stated that the reasoning behind the deadline of October 31 is that it allows for calculations to be made, eligible employees to be identified, and checks to be processed so that they can be made available to recipients prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. Ms. Murchison further stated that if the federal government had not shut down due to budget issues in 2013, she likely would have started her full-time employment in August of 2013. However, Ms. Murchison stated that she did not receive a letter of appointment in August of 2013. The Board expressed understanding and appreciation of Ms. Murchison's request. No action was taken.

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Commissioner Peterson suggested being mindful of the October 31 deadline when hiring new employees and explaining the Longevity Pay Plan to those employees who are hired in November.

ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Dowless to address the Board. Commissioner Dowless stated that he had attended a recent Mid-Carolina Council of Governments meeting during which transportation projects were discussed. He stated that the round-about located at the intersection of 41/410 should be completed in 2019. He also stated that a decision may be made in January 2019 whether or not to four-lane NC 87 from Elwell Ferry Road to Airport Road. He stated that the project to four-lane NC 87 from NC 11 to US74/76 will begin in 2024. Following discussion and by acclamation, the Board asked that letters of appreciation and support of the transportation projects be submitted to the legislative delegation.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell provided an update regarding mental health delivery discussions during a recent Eastpointe Board of Directors meeting. He stated that it appears mental health will soon be privatized, utilizing large entities, such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Aetna, and United. He asked Board members to provide feedback regarding efforts to privatize mental health services. He also encouraged Board members to urge mental health providers to locate within the county. He shared his concern regarding citizens who require services may have to travel to providers in New Hanover, Cumberland, and Brunswick Counties if a provider is not timely established within the county.

Chairman Britt asked that Mr. Martin submit a letter requesting support and guidance to encourage a provider to locate in Bladen County.

ITEM 5. Finance Department: (Lisa Coleman, Finance Officer)

- A. Mrs. Coleman reviewed a Financial Dashboard for the four-month period ending October 31, 2018. She also expressed appreciation to the Board for providing bonus and longevity funding to county employees. She stated that the checks had been passed out earlier today.

ITEM 6. Health and Human Services Agency: (Wayne Raynor, Director)

- A. Mr. Raynor introduced Administrative Officer Djuana Register. Both Mr. Raynor and Mrs. Register provided an overview of a Bad Debt Write-Off request in the amount of \$4,828.74. Mrs. Register stated that the bad debt write-off is for accounts which carry a balance of less than \$50 and which have had no activity in the past twelve (12) months. She further stated that if a patient, who is included in the bad debt write-off program, presents for any new services, charges are reinstated to their account for collection.
Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Bad Debt Write-Off request in the amount of \$4,828.74.
Mrs. Register introduced a Bad Debt Set-Off request in the amount of \$21,008.99, which includes eighty-five (85) clients, for discussion and consideration. Following discussion, as the Bad Debt Set-Off request was not included on the agenda, the topic was tabled to a future meeting.
- B. Mr. Raynor provided an overview of a Nutrition Plus Contractual Agreement which will provide for nutritionist/dietitian services in the WIC clinic one day per week. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved a Nutrition Plus Contractual Agreement.
- C. Mr. Raynor provided an overview of a recently published 2018 County Health Rankings Report, published by a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute collaboration. He stated that Bladen County had improved, moving from 99 to 95. Mr. Raynor reviewed a number of demographics including adult obesity, physical inactivity, alcohol-impaired driving deaths, and adult smoking; additional health barriers of teen births, availability of mental health services, and

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children in poverty. He stated that Health Educator Marianne Valentiner had recently reviewed with the Board a State of the County Health Report. Mr. Raynor suggested a focus group to develop a strategic plan to improve various health indicators. Commissioner Bullock made a motion to establish a committee to focus on efforts to improve the health of Bladen County citizens. Commissioner Munn-Goins provided a second. Following discussion regarding an established and working Healthy Bladen Collaborative group, Mr. Raynor stated that he would contact Marianne Valentiner who is involved with Bladen Healthy Collaborative to enhance efforts and report to the Board. Commissioner Bullock withdrew his motion.

ITEM 7. Advisory Board Appointments:

- A. Bay Tree Lakes Fire Service District (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board unanimously reappointed James W. Davis and, waiving the rules on term limits, reappointed Ray Hudson to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring November 3, 2021.
- B. Child Fatality Protection Team (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously tabled appointments.
- C. Keep Bladen Beautiful (3):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously tabled appointments.
- D. Planning Board (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously appointed Corey M. Lyons to an unexpired term, with the term expiring June 30, 2019.
- E. Watershed Review Board (3):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, reappointed Lorenza Graham and Terry Macon, and appointed Gloria McLean to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring September 6, 2021.
- F. White Lake Planning and Zoning (ETJ) (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously appointed Tammy Collins to a three-year term of service, with the term expiring October 14, 2021.

ITEM 8. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During December 17, 2018 Board Meeting:

- A. Ammon Fire Department Firefighters Relief Fund Board (1)**
- B. BARTS Advisory Board (5)**
- C. Bay Tree Lakes Fire Department Firefighters Relief Fund Board (1)**
- D. Division on Aging Advisory Committee (3)**
- E. East Arcadia Fire Department Firefighters Relief Fund Board (1)**
- F. Economic Development Commission (4)**
- G. Health and Human Services Agency Advisory (4)**
- H. Hickory Grove Fire Department Firefighters Relief Fund Board (1)**
- I. Kelly Fire Department Firefighters Relief Fund Board (1)**
- J. Library Board (3)**
- K. Lisbon Fire Department Firefighters Relief Fund Board (1)**
- L. Personnel Advisory Board (2)**
- M. Tar Heel Fire Department Firefighters Relief Fund Board (1)**
- N. Tobermory Fire Department Firefighters Relief Fund Board (1)**
- O. White Oak Fire Department Firefighters Relief Fund Board (1)**

ITEM 10. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A.** Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of November and December 2018.

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell provided information related to FEMA assistance related to Hurricane Florence damage. He

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stated that he understands that there is a limitation of no less than \$17,000 per incident/location to open a claim with FEMA. Mr. Cogdell urged Board members to encourage residents to contact a licensed contractor for a professional and full estimate for repairs and not allow FEMA to make a determination without a licensed contractor's input.

Chairman Britt addressed the Board regarding interest shown by other ministers who would like to provide an invocation at Board meetings. Mr. Martin indicated that there is no written procedure or policy in place. However, it has been the County's practice in the last several years for Reverend Larry Hayes to provide an invocation. Chairman Britt asked for discussion regarding providing an opportunity for other ministers to participate. Following discussion, the Board was open to developing a rotating schedule for ministers to provide an invocation

Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:38pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Ray Britt, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners