

December 9, 2013

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, December 9, 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: Leslie 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 Pait the Board approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of Regular Meeting on November 18, 2013.
- C. Budget Amendments as follows:

Animal Control

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105200.200	Supplies	2,898.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103260.040	Animal Control Fees	2,898.00	

Increase in fee collections.

Planning

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
104220.325	Postage	200.00	
104220.270	Advertising	750.00	
104220.200	Supplies	200.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103110.001	Zoning/Cell Towers	1,000.00	
103110.013	Conditional Use/Zoning	150.00	

Cover fees associated with cell tower public hearing and zoning amendments.

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	5,959.79	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	5,959.79	

Repairs for 2008 Ford E350 #0582.

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105010.357	Vehicle Repairs	5,430.07	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	5,430.07	

Repairs for 2013 White Ford Taurus.

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105010.121	Longevity	15.00	
105010.125	Overtime	100.00	
105010.325	Postage	26.30	
105010.499	Miscellaneous Expense	1,635.14	
105010.126	Part-Time		153.24
<i>Revenues</i>			
103170.040	Sale of Assets	1,623.20	

To cover longevity, cost of auction and other expenses.

December 9, 2013

Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105100.212	Uniforms	3,541.22	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103270.015	DOJ Treasury	3,541.22	

Reimbursement for expenses related to bullet proof vest purchases.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105900.200	Supplies	10,563.48	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103560.082	Hepatitis B/Flu	10,563.48	

Fees collected for Hepatitis B/Flue Shots.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1059005920.120	Salaries		1,503.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.090	F/S – Family Planning		1,503.00

Budget reduction of 3.7% by State.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1059005920.200	Supplies	4,980.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.090	F/S – Family Planning	4,980.00	

Additional funding from State.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1059005930.120	Salaries		3,296.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.100	F/S – Maternal Health		3,296.00

Budget reduction of 7.8% by State.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1059005960.200	Supplies	3,994.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.080	F/S – Health Promotions	3,994.00	

Additional funding from State.

Soil Conservation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106400.499.014	Misc Expense – District	24,888.98	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	24,888.98	

Rollover of Soil Conservation Districts funds from prior year.

Education

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106910.740.001	Capital Outlay-TarHeel	57,110.70	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	57,110.70	

Rollover of unspent QSCB Funding.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
146100.689	Energy Neighbor Fund	455.84	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.031	Energy Neighbor Fund	455.84	

Funding Authorization #9. 100% State Funds.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
146100.693	Medicaid Transportation	25,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.320	Medicaid Transportation	25,000.00	

To pay current and future expenses. 100% Federal Funds.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
146100.706	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIEAP)	413.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.033	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIEAP)	413.00	

Funding Authorization #1. 100% Federal Funds.

December 9, 2013

Hospital Rental Fund

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
665999.744	Debt Service – Principal	65,083.68	
665999.745	Debt Service – Interest	14,552.21	
<i>Revenues</i>			
663170.010	Rents	79,635.89	

To cover Hospital Rent for 2013-14.

CDBG – Scattered Site

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
784970.960.001	Admin	35,000.00	
784970.960.002	Site Planning	5,000.00	
784970.960.003	Clearance	30,000.00	
784970.960.008	Reconstruction	330,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
783970.020	CDBG – Scattered Site	400,000.00	

Rollover of Scattered Site Grant.

CDBG - SBEA

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
784985.960.002	Site Planning	5,000.00	
784985.960.006	Machinery/Equipment	235,000.00	
784985.960.007	Other Activities	10,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
783970.022	CDBG – SBEA	250,000.00	

Rollover of SBEA Grant.

D. County Attorney Invoices:

Date	Department	Amount
11/18/13	Human Resources	\$ 500.00
11/18/13	DOA / BARTS	\$ 250.00
11/20/13	Human Resources	\$ 250.00
11/27/13	Finance Department	\$ 250.00
12/1/13	Dec-13 Retainer	\$ 300.00
	Total	\$ 1,550.00

- E. Tax Refunds and Releases No. 11-13
- F. Declare Bunker Rake Surplus and Authorize Sale to the Town of Elizabethtown for the amount of \$800.

ITEM 3. Election of Board Officers: (County Manager)

- A. **Chairman** – County Manager Greg Martin opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Dowless nominated Jimmie Smith. Commissioner Pait provided a second for the motion. Hearing no further nominations, Commissioner Blanks made a motion to close the nominations. James G. “Jimmie” Smith was unanimously elected as chairperson.
- B. **Vice Chairman** – County Manager Greg Martin opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Dowless nominated Mark Gillespie. Commissioner Pait provided a second for the motion. Hearing no further nominations, nominations were closed. Mark Gillespie was unanimously elected as vice chairperson.

ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

- A. Chairman Smith recognized Annie L. Jackson upon her retirement as Environmental Assistant. Along with Supervisors Desmond Gillespie and Robert Mazur, Chairman Smith presented Ms. Jackson with a plaque in recognition and appreciation of her twenty years of service with the County of Bladen.
- B. Chairman Smith recognized the Bladen County Girls All-Star Soccer Team for their Silver medal achievement in the 12U State-Wide Activities Committee (SWAC) Tournament. Chairman Smith congratulated the team and coaches Mike Potter and Rich Glenn.
- C. The Board of Commissioners meeting was recessed for a reception in honor of Ms. Jackson and the Bladen County 12U Girls All-Star Soccer team.

December 9, 2013

The Board reconvened its meeting in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse.

ITEM 5. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance wished to address the Board.

ITEM 6. Economic Development Commission: (Chuck Heustess, Director)

A. Mr. Chuck Heustess provided an overview of the requested amendment to the current lease agreement with the State of North Carolina related to the Employment Security Commission/Workforce Solutions office location in Elizabethtown. The State had originally requested to break the lease completely, closing the local ESC office, which would require Bladen County residents to travel to Robeson County for services available through the Department of Commerce. Mr. Heustess and Mr. Greg Martin initiated several meetings in an attempt to renegotiate terms with the Department of Commerce. The renegotiated amendment to the lease, which will reduce the annual payments from \$116,219.28 to \$65,000, is to begin January 1, 2014 for the balance of the initial term of the lease agreement, with an extension option of ten (10) years. Commissioner Peterson stated that he felt it was shoddy business that the State of North Carolina can just cancel their lease and leave us "hanging out to dry". Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board unanimously approved the amended lease agreement with the State of North Carolina regarding the Division of Workforce Solutions office.

B. Mr. Heustess presented the amended lease agreement between Bladen County and Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc. related to the Employment Security Commission office lease for the amount of \$95,000 annually. The amendment to the current lease agreement is directly related to the renegotiated lease agreement with Bladen County and the State of North Carolina as referenced in item 6A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved the amended lease agreement between the County of Bladen and BBAI, Inc.

C. Mr. Heustess, along with Mr. Eric Locklear of Locklear, Locklear and Jacobs Consulting Engineers, provided an overview of the EPA Brownfields Assessment Program grant application process and its potential in assisting additional Economic Development projects within Bladen County, by funding Phase I and Phase II Environmental surveys. These types of surveys are being required by lending institutions more. Mr. Locklear stated that Bladen County should be viewed a very favorable applicant for this grant, being in an economically distressed, rural area. By utilizing an engineering firm as a consultant in the process, the potential approval for Bladen County's application would also be favorable by indicating Bladen County's dedication and understanding of the process. The funds from this grant, if approved, would total \$400,000 over a period of three years. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously authorized the application process for the EPA Brownfields Assessment Program Grant.

ITEM 7. Finance Department: (Lisa Coleman, Director)

A. Mrs. Lisa Coleman provided information related to the financing of the Northwoods Document and Forms Management software. Requests for Proposals were submitted to eight finance institutions and bids were received from Branch Banking & Trust Company, SunTrust and First Citizens Bank. Of the three respondents, the Branch Banking & Trust proposal was most favorable. Mrs. Coleman recommended the Board consider approving the Financing Resolution with BB&T. Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously adopted the Financing Resolution with Branch Banking & Trust Company.

ITEM 8. Emergency Services: (Bradley Kinlaw, Director)

A. Mr. Bradley Kinlaw provided supporting information for the request to purchase a cable for the NC Forest Service Fire Tractor/Plow unit. During a

December 9, 2013

search and rescue incident which began on November 26, the cable was damaged beyond repair. The NC Forest Service volunteered their time and equipment to assist with the search and rescue. Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously approved the purchase of a winch cable for the NC Forest Service for approximately \$850.

- B. Mr. Kinlaw requested a reclassification of EMT Intermediate staff position, Grade 64, to be revised to EMT Intermediate/Deputy Fire Marshal, Grade 64. This new position will fill a part-time position that is currently open. This position will work 50% of the time for EMS and 50% with the Fire Marshal's office. The position is currently funded in the current budget. Upon motion by Commissioner Blanks and seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board unanimously approved the position reclassification as requested.
- C. Mr. Kinlaw requested a reclassification of EMT-Firefighter staff position, Grade 65, to a Firefighter-Paramedic position, Grade 65. This new position will allow for the Paramedic assigned to the eastern portion of the County from 6am until 6pm to assist with fire suppression and which will favorably affect the fire district rating for East Arcadia, Carvers Creek and Kelly, thus possibly reducing fire insurance premiums for the covered areas. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Blanks, the Board unanimously approved the position reclassification as requested.

ITEM 9. Health & Human Services Department: (Cris Harrelson, Director)

- A. Mr. Cris Harrelson provided information and an overview of the award acknowledgement for the Young Families Connect Grant. The first year funding will be \$109,922 and subsequent years will be based on availability of funding and performance. This Grant will provide funds to support young parents by providing training in preparation of being responsible for the child. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously approved to accept the Grant award from NCDHHS for Young Families Connect,

ITEM 10. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration at the December 16 Meeting:

- A. Bladen County Division on Aging Advisory Committee (2)
- B. Bladen County Economic Development Commission (3)
- C. Bladen County Library Board (2)

ITEM 11. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. County Manager Greg Martin reviewed the calendars for December, 2013 and January, 2014, noting an additional event scheduled for Thursday, December 12, Bladen County Firefighters Association Appreciation Dinner, to begin at 7pm at the National Guard Amory in Elizabethtown. All Commissioners and their families are invited to attend.
- B. Mr. Martin discussed the 2014 NCACC Federal Legislative Issues request recently received. The NC Association of County Commissioners is requesting each county to submit federal issues to the counties to be considered as an NCACC Legislative goal for the upcoming year. Any issue will be shared for consideration at the January 6, 2014 Board of Commissioners' meeting.
- C. Mr. Martin asked that the Board consider scheduling a Planning session for January 16, in conjunction with the Division Managers. Dr. Mitch Owen, who has worked with Bladen County in the past years, has indicated to Mr. Martin that he will gladly work with the Board and Division Managers during the Planning Sessions. The subject was tabled until the December 16 meeting.
- D. Chairman Smith shared with the Board that the Bladen County Firefighters Association has been busy raising money to fund the Appreciation Dinner.

December 9, 2013

They are currently \$1,000 short of the \$1,800 goal. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved funds to be submitted to the Bladen County Firefighters Association in the amount of \$1,000 for the Appreciation Dinner.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.

James G. Smith, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board