

December 4, 2017

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, December 4, 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

Daniel Dowless

G. Michael Cogdell

David R. Gooden

Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins

Russell Priest

Ashley Trivette

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order. He asked for a moment of silence prior to the invocation in memory of former Commissioner and past Chairman Herbert Johnson who recently passed.

Reverend Larry Hayes, Good News Baptist Church of Bladenboro, provided the Invocation. Guest 4-H'er Aubrey Schwable led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Priest to address the Board. Commissioner Priest commended Attorney Leslie Johnson for his part of the funeral services for Mr. Herbert Johnson.

Chairman Peterson asked the Board to consider moving Item 5-Special Recognition following Item 4-Reception and Item 8-Sheriff's Office prior to Item 6-Matters of Interest to Commissioners. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved the change in order of the Agenda.

Chairman Peterson handed out information submitted by Bladen's Bloomin'/Agri-Industrial, Inc. The information included the by-laws. He invited the Board to reach out to him or County Manager Greg Martin if anyone had any questions regarding the information.

Chairman Peterson turned the meeting over to County Manager Greg Martin to moderate the Election of Board Officers.

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

A. Mr. Martin opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson. Commissioner Dowless nominated Commissioner Peterson. Commissioner Trivette provided a second to the nomination. Commissioner Cogdell nominated Commissioner Britt. Commissioner Bullock provided a second to Mr. Britt's nomination. Commissioner Munn-Goins made a motion to close the floor for nominations. Mr. Martin asked for a show of hands for the election of Commissioner Peterson for Chairman. Commissioners Dowless, Peterson, Trivette, and Gooden provided four (4) votes. The vote did not carry for the election of Commissioner Peterson.

Mr. Martin asked for a show of hands for the election of Commissioner Britt for Chairman. Commissioners Cogdell, Priest, Britt, Bullock, and Munn-Goins provided five (5) votes for the nomination of Commissioner Britt to serve as Chairman.

Mr. Martin congratulated Commissioner Britt upon his election as Chairman for the ensuing year.

B. Mr. Martin opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman. Commissioner Bullock nominated Commissioner Cogdell for the position of Vice Chairman. Commissioner Peterson nominated Commissioner Trivette. Commissioner Dowless provided a second to Commissioner Peterson's nomination. Commissioner Munn-Goins made a motion to close the floor for

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nominations. Commissioner Bullock provided a second. Nominations were closed unanimously.

Mr. Martin asked for a show of hands for the election of Commissioner Cogdell for Vice Chairman. Commissioners Bullock, Priest, Britt, Cogdell, and Munn-Goins provided five (5) votes for the nomination of Commissioner Cogdell to serve as Vice Chairman.

County Manager congratulated Commissioner Cogdell upon his election as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

ITEM 4. Special Recognition:

- A. Commissioner Peterson recognized Sandra Cain upon her retirement from Bladen County Cooperative Extension Service effective December 1, 2017. Mr. Martin congratulated Mrs. Cain upon her retirement and successful tenure as Cooperative Extension Director. Mrs. Cain thanked the Board for its enduring support since she came to Bladen County in 2002. She further explained the collaboration between Bladen County and NC State University. She expressed appreciation to Bladen Online and the Bladen Journal for their support in publishing Cooperative Extension articles as well.
- B. Commissioner Peterson recognized J. L. Lennon upon his retirement effective December 1, 2017. General Services Director Kip McClary congratulated Mr. Lennon upon his retirement.

The meeting was briefly recessed at 6:42pm for a reception.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:54pm.

Chairman Britt addressed the Board and expressed appreciation and excitement for the coming year. Upon Chairman Britt's request, Mr. Hayes provided an invocation on behalf of Bladen County and the Board of Commissioners.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

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

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of November 20, 2017 Special Meeting.
- C. Minutes of November 20, 2017 Regular Meeting.
- D. Budget Amendment, as follows:

Division on Aging

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6230.200	Supplies	1,810.00	
106200.6230.310	Travel	250.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.048	DOA-SHIIP Grant	2,060.00	

SHIIP grant funds for supplies and travel.

E. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
11/13/17	Emergency Services	\$ 725.00
11/14/17	Sheriff's Office	\$ 775.00
11/17/17	E M S	\$ 475.00
11/21/17	E M S	\$ 875.00
11/30/17	Elections	\$ 4,575.00
12/1/17	Dec-17 Retainer	\$ 300.00
	Total	\$ 7,725.00

- F. Tax Releases No. 10-17, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.
- G. Scheduled a Public Hearing for 6:30pm on Monday, December 18, 2017 to receive comments regarding the Closeout of Community Development Block Grant # 11-C-2332 related to Carrol Poultry.
- H. The following Bonds for Public Officials:

Name / Position	Agent	Bond Amt	Premium Amt
Lisa C. Coleman Finance Officer	Lacy West-Thomas Insurance	\$ 100,00	\$ 350.00
Carol Cain Tax Collector	Lacy West-Thomas Insurance	\$ 100,000	\$ 750.00
Beverly Parks Register of Deeds	Lacy West-Thomas Insurance	\$ 50,000	\$ 175.00
Hubert Kinlaw Coroner	Lacy West-Thomas Insurance	\$ 25,000	\$ 87.50
James McVicker Sheriff	Lacy West-Thomas Insurance	\$ 25,000	\$ -0- *

*The Sheriff's bond has been prepaid through April, 2019.

I. 2018 Holiday Schedule

J. 2018 Board of Commissioner Meeting Dates.

K. TransUnion Renewal Agreement for Consumer Reporting and Ancillary Services

ITEM 8. Sheriff's Office: (Sheriff Jim McVicker):

A. Sheriff McVicker and Captain Jeff Singletary addressed the Board regarding a proposed purchase of 53 ballistic helmets. On the heels of a recent incident in the County, the request is being made. Equitable Sharing Funds have been used to recently purchase 53 ballistic vests. Sheriff McVicker brought a similar helmet for the Board's information and viewing. He stated that the purchase price would be approximately \$14,147 for 53 helmets, including face shields. Following discussion, the Board asked Sheriff McVicker to return to the Board for action at an upcoming meeting.

B. Sheriff McVicker and Captain Singletary provided an update regarding a proposed fence project to be constructed adjacent to the Courthouse near Courthouse Drive. The estimate to construct is approximately \$7,300. This fencing would allow for safe transport of inmates for Court appearances. A Revocable License Agreement with the Town of Elizabethtown would need to be considered in order to temporarily block passage on the Town's sidewalk when the fence is in use.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously tabled the topic to a future meeting.

ITEM 6. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Vice Chairman Cogdell inquired regarding the videotaping of Board meetings. He stated that since Bladen Online had been videoing the meetings, there was no need for the County to duplicate efforts. However, Bladen Online is no longer videotaping the meetings. He asked for the County Manager and Computer Operations Director to revisit the cost to implement a videotaping system. Commissioner Trivette shared that her family businesses may be interested in sponsoring Bladen Online's efforts to videotape Board meetings. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, the Board voted to ask Mr. Martin and Mr. Hewett to provide cost estimates at an upcoming meeting by a vote of seven (7) AYES (Bullock, Priest, Gooden, Trivette, Britt, Cogdell, Munn-Goins) to two (2) NOES (Peterson, Dowless).

ITEM 7. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address the Board:

A. Attorney Cynthia Adams Singletary addressed the Board regarding the possibility of Bladen County joining in the lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies related to the opioid crisis. Ms. Singletary provided an overview of the proposed litigation and a list of national law firms who have already agreed to participate. She stated that if the County should decide to participate adopting a resolution would be in order, along with approving an Authority to Represent. She stated that no taxpayer monies would be expended to cover the cost of litigation. Instead, the proposed agreement was

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developed to reimburse litigation expenses and any other fees only if a recovery was granted.

Following discussion, the Board expressed appreciation to Ms. Singletary and indicated its willingness to consider her proposal at a future meeting.

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

- A. Mr. Hewett stated that he has been researching the newest generation of antivirus software. He provided an overview of two (2) different antivirus software options. Both of the options are HIPAA compliant, and include a forensic module as well. The cost for either is approximately three (3) times as much as the currently used software; one being \$15,000 for a three-year period and the other is \$13,000 per year with cost sharing between departments. Mr. Hewett will provide a formal agreement for the Board to consider at an upcoming meeting.

ITEM 10. Advisory Board Appointments:

- A. **Animal Control Board (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, Donna Taylor was appointed to fill an unexpired term, with the term expiring June 30, 2018.
- B. **Bay Tree Lakes Fire District Committee (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously reappointed John A. Hemingway, and waiving the rules on term limits, reappointed Lenox Harreslon to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring November 3, 2020.
- C. **Clarkton ETJ (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, reappointed Marlowe Grant and Wilbur Ward to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring November 30, 2020.
- D. **Clarkton Fire District (3):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, reappointed Julie Ward, Sammy Russ, and Marlowe Grant to three-year terms of service, with the terms expiring November 30, 2020.
- E. **White Lake Planning and Zoning (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously tabled an appointment.

ITEM 12: Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration at December 18, 2017 Meeting:

- A. **BARTS Advisory Board (6)**
B. **Division on Aging Committee (6)**
C. **Economic Development Commission (8)**
D. **Library Board (2)**
E. **Personnel Advisory Board (1)**

ITEM 13. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of December 2017 and January 2018. Mr. Martin also informed the Board of a 6pm GenX Update meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 14, which is scheduled to be held at Gray's Creek High School.
Chairman Britt asked Commissioner Peterson to continue serving as Chairman of the Opioid Forum. Commissioner Peterson stated that he would continue in that capacity.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously scheduled a Special Meeting regarding tax matters for 5:30pm on Monday, December 18, 2017.

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- C. Emergency Services Director Bradley Kinlaw provided information regarding a Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Conditional Award Letter. He stated that the County had been notified of an additional \$1,000,000 to assist Hurricane Matthew victims. He stated that an application would be necessary to secure the funding.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved a Bladen County CDBG-DR Conditional Award Letter.

He provided an update as well regarding a previous conditional award letter which was approved during the November 6, 2017 Board meeting. He stated that he anticipates a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to be received and will be presented to the Board for consideration.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:51pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Ray Britt, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners