

December 2, 2019

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, December 2, 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. Reverend Kevin Kinlaw, New Center Baptist Church, 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 adding Economic Development (NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) to Item 19A, Closed Session.

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

- A. Amended Agenda, including NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) to Item 19A Closed Session.
- B. Minutes of the November 18, 2019 Regular Meeting.
- C. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	448.00	
104500.270	Advertising	266.32	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	714.32	

County Property #0042927 Gilmore Smith – Bryan Rd.

Sheriff’s Department

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.5110.120	Salaries	98,858.00	
105100.5110.181	FICA	7,563.00	
105100.5110.182	Retirement	8,117.00	
105100.5110.183	Group Insurance	29,000.00	
105100.5110.185	Retiree Health Insurance	6,505.00	
105100.5120.120	Salaries	29,866.00	
105100.5120.181	FICA	2,285.00	
105100.5120.182	Retirement	2,452.00	
105100.5120.185	Retiree Health Insurance	1,966.00	
105100.5110.352	M/R – Equipment	60,000.00	
105100.741	Capital Outlay – Vehicles	80,000.00	
105100.200	Supplies	2,000.00	
105100.499.043	Incident Provisions	1,000.00	
105100.395	Schools		3,000.00
105100.5110.499	Miscellaneous Expense	40,000.00	
105100.5110.212	Uniforms	4,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103260.025	Federal Inmate Funding	370,612.00	

Implementation of Federal detention contract also addressing deficiency in some line items.

Animal Control/Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105200.740	Capital Outlay	50,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103260.044	AC-Petco Foundation	50,000.00	

Petco Grant for Shelter addition.

Emergency Services Grants

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105303.621.003	Hard Costs – Acquisition		493,313.00
105303.621.004	Soft Costs – Acquisition		26,250.00

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105303.621.005	Hard Costs – Reconstruction		343,894.00
105303.621.006	Soft Costs – Reconstruction		74,987.00
105303.621.007	Hard Costs – Elevation		235,831.00
105303.621.008	Soft Costs – Elevation		10,100.00
115303.621.003	Hard Costs – Acquisition	493,313.00	
115303.621.004	Soft Costs – Acquisition	26,250.00	
115303.621.005	Hard Costs – Reconstruction	343,894.00	
115303.621.006	Soft Costs – Reconstruction	74,987.00	
115303.621.007	Hard Costs – Elevation	235,831.00	
115303.621.008	Soft Costs – Elevation	10,100.00	
Revenues			
103230.043	Federal HMGP Hurricane Matthew		888,281.00
103230.044	State HMGP Hurricane Matthew		296,094.00
113230.043	Federal HMGP Hurricane Matthew	888,281.00	
113230.044	State HMGP Hurricane Matthew	296,094.00	

Move to manage ongoing projects.

Emergency Services Grants

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105304.960.001	Admin		100,000.00
105304.960.008	Reconstruction		750,000.00
105304.960.020	Elevation		150,000.00
115304.960.001	Admin	100,000.00	
115304.960.008	Reconstruction	750,000.00	
115304.960.020	Elevation	150,000.00	
Revenues			
103230.045	HM DRA17		1,000,000.00
113230.045	HM DRA17	1,000,000.00	

Move to manage ongoing projects.

Emergency Services Grants

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105305.960.001	Admin		100,000.00
105305.960.010	Flood Insurance		25,000.00
105305.960.011	Housing Reimbursement		100,000.00
105305.960.013	Mobile Home Rehab		200,000.00
105305.960.016	Temporary Rental		25,000.00
105305.960.018	Single Family Rehab		525,000.00
105305.960.019	Small Rental Rehab		25,000.00
115305.960.001	Admin	100,000.00	
115305.960.010	Flood Insurance	25,000.00	
115305.960.011	Housing Reimbursement	100,000.00	
115305.960.013	Mobile Home Rehab	200,000.00	
115305.960.016	Temporary Rental	25,000.00	
115305.960.018	Single Family Rehab	525,000.00	
115305.960.019	Small Rental Rehab	25,000.00	
Revenues			
103230.046	DRA – 2017		1,000,000.00
113230.046	DRA – 2017	1,000,000.00	

Move to manage ongoing projects.

Emergency Services Grants

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105306.621.001	Soft Costs		26,750.00
105306.621.002	Hard Costs		133,354.00
105306.621.021	Acquisition		927,157.00
115306.621.001	Soft Costs	26,750.00	
115306.621.002	Hard Costs	133,354.00	
115306.621.021	Acquisition	927,157.00	
Revenues			
103230.049	DR 4393 HMGP		953,907.00
103230.050	DR 4393 PA		133,354.00
113230.049	DR 4393 HMGP	953,907.00	
113230.050	DR 4393 PA	133,354.00	

Move to manage ongoing projects.

Emergency Services Grants

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105307.960.001	Admin		15,000.00
105307.960.022	SARF – 5369		166,500.00
115307.960.001	Admin	15,000.00	
115307.960.022	SARF – 5369	166,500.00	
Revenues			
103230.051	SARF – DRA5369-023		181,500.00
113230.051	SARF – DRA5369-023	181,500.00	

Move to manage ongoing projects.

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Division on Aging

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6210.310	Travel	780.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.019	DOA-In Home Cost Share	780.00	

Revenue to expenditure to pay IHA mileage.

Division on Aging

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6220.285	Food/Nutrition	1,611.20	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.028	DOA N/SC Program Income	1,576.20	
103530.030	DOA N/SC Donations	5.00	
103530.049	DOA Nutrition Reimbursement	30.00	

Revenue to expenditure to pay for congregate nutrition.

Division on Aging

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6225.286	Food/Nutrition	9,900.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.050	WMOW/BCBS HDM Grant	9,900.00	

BCBS/MOW grant funds for Home-Delivered meals

Division on Aging

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6230.200	Supplies	6,000.00	
106200.6230.499	Miscellaneous Expense	7,347.30	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.017	Sr Ctr Donations	821.00	
103530.029	DOA BG Sr Ctr Ops	12,526.30	

Revenue to expenditure to purchase Sr Ctr supplies and miscellaneous.

Division on Aging

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106200.6230.287	Ensure	4,178.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.024	Ensure	4,178.00	

To purchase Ensure.

Library

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106700.200	Supplies	100.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	100.00	

Donation in Memory of Bobbie Dial Kemp from Rebecca and Bobby Dowless.

Administration/Economic Development

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106900.901	To Economic Development	200,000.00	
307200.910.001	Product Development	200,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.051	FBA-Product Development	200,000.00	
303422.002	Fm General Fund	200,000.00	

Approved funding for incubator project.

Emergency Services Grants

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
115303.621.005	Hard Costs - Reconstruction	106,020.00	
115303.621.006	Soft Costs - Reconstruction	24,994.00	
115303.621.003	Hard Costs - Acquisition	287,924.00	
115303.621.004	Soft Costs - Acquisition	32,771.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
113230.041	HMGP-Federal	338,782.00	
113230.042	HMGP-State	112,927.00	

Manage ongoing project.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.003	Adult Abuse Awareness	200.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.029	Adult Abuse Awareness	200.00	

To purchase items for the adult ward Christmas.

Solid Waste

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
205800.352	M/R - Equipment	20,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
203190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	20,000.00	

New tires for loader.

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Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
535100.499.058	Misc Expense – Justice	72,953.80	
<i>Revenues</i>			
533265.001	Sheriff-Justice Funds	72,953.80	

Incoming equitable sharing funds.

D. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
11/13/2019	Water District	14,808.00
	Total	\$ 14,808.00

E. 2020 Commissioner Meeting Dates.

F. Bonds for Public Officials, as follows:

Name/Position	Agent	Bond Amount	Premium Cost
Lisa C. Coleman Finance Officer	Lacy West-Thomas Insurance Agency	\$ 100,000	\$ 350.00
Carol Cain Tax Collector	Lacy West-Thomas Insurance Agency	\$ 100,000	\$ 750.00
Beverly Parks Register of Deeds	Lacy West-Thomas Insurance Agency	\$ 50,000	\$ 175.00
Kenneth Clark Coroner	Lacy West-Thomas Insurance Agency	\$ 25,000	\$ 87.50
James A. McVicker Sheriff	Lacy West-Thomas Insurance Agency	\$ 25,000	*\$ 340.00

*paid through April 2023

G. Bladen Area Rural Transportation System (BARTS) Driver’s Policy.

H. The following Resolution Regarding a Water Resources Development Grant:



Chairman Peterson recognized County Attorney Leslie Johnson, who was in attendance, and invited him and the entire Board to the front of the Commissioners’ Room. Chairman Peterson also introduced Representative William Brisson. Mr. Brisson then presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award and certificate to Mr. Johnson. Mr. Johnson’s family members in attendance joined him for the presentation. Mr. Johnson expressed appreciation and gratitude.

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

- A. Mr. Martin opened nominations for Chairperson. Commissioner Gooden nominated Ray Britt, with Commissioner Dowless providing a second. Commissioner Bullock nominated Michael Cogdell, with Commissioner Munn-Goins providing a second. Nominations were closed by acclamation. Upon a vote of six (6) AYES (Gooden, Peterson, Britt, Dowless, Trivette, Priest), Commissioner Britt was elected as Chairperson for the ensuing year. Mr. Martin congratulated Chairperson Britt.
- B. Mr. Martin opened nominations for Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Dowless nominated Commissioner Gooden. Commissioner Trivette nominated Commissioner Cogdell. Nominations were closed upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Bullock. Upon a vote of five (5) AYES (Priest, Gooden, Peterson, Britt, Dowless) Commissioner Gooden was elected as Vice Chairperson for the ensuing year. Mr. Martin congratulated Vice Chairperson Gooden.

ITEM 4. Reception:

Chairman Britt briefly recessed the meeting at 6:41pm for a reception in honor of the new Board officials and Mr. Johnson’s Order of the Long Leaf Pine recognition.

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Chairman Britt reconvened the meeting at 6:57pm.

Chairman Britt expressed appreciation to Commissioner Peterson for his leadership as Chairman and asked that he continue leading the Bladen County Opioid Task Force and the ongoing efforts to seek funding and resources to rehabilitate the Kelly levee. Commissioner Peterson accepted the ongoing projects.

ITEM 5. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

Chairman Britt recognized Mr. Keith Ludlum to address the Board. Mr. Ludlum expressed appreciation for the opportunity. Mr. Ludlum voiced concerns regarding the Water District late fee policy. He expressed consternation regarding perceived inconsistencies. He asked that the Board consider reviewing the Late Payment Penalty Policy and advertisement of that policy in order to eliminate confusion and frustration. Chairman Britt asked that County Manager Greg Martin to research the policy and report findings to the Board.

ITEM 6. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Chairman Britt recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell inquired regarding local government-owned real properties which are not taxed. He expressed concern regarding foreclosed property, which is not taxed during the time that the County has possession of the property. Chairman Britt asked that Mr. Martin, Tax Administrator Renee Davis, and County Attorney Allen Johnson review general statutes for an alternative procedure.

ITEM 7. Public Hearing:

A. Chairman Britt declared open a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a rezoning request submitted by Crystal Buffkin related to a one-acre tract of land to be subdivided from property located adjacent to 1651 Clyde Evans Road, Bladenboro (PIN No. 0246-0044-9949). Ms. Buffkin intends to establish a catering kitchen on the property and has requested the one-acre tract be rezoned from Residential Agricultural (RA) to Commercial (C).

Planning Director Greg Elkins was also in attendance to answer any questions from the Board.

Ms. Susan Perry expressed concern regarding a possible catering kitchen located across a non-paved road from her home. She further voiced concerns regarding potential increased traffic, attraction of wild animals due to kitchen waste, and neighborhood safety.

Ms. Buffkin provided an overview of the intent of establishing a catering kitchen to provide for her family, while allowing her to basically work from home to care for her children. She indicated that she has been in communication with Environmental Health to assure that all required equipment, certifications, and building codes are satisfied.

Commissioner Cogdell inquired of Mr. Elkins if all aspects of the county ordinance regarding zoning had been met. Mr. Elkins indicated that the Planning Board did review the request and approved it to be presented to the Board of Commissioners. He indicated that the Public Hearing notice was published on November 22, 2019 in a newspaper of general circulation. An Affidavit of Publication follows:



Commissioner Trivette made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Cogdell provided a second.

Property owner James Stone provided additional information regarding the property in question. He explained that the one-acre tract of land is to be subdivided from a larger tract of his land. Once the rezoning is approved, the property will be deeded and recorded properly.

Mr. Orville Jones also expressed concern regarding the establishment of a commercial business in an unincorporated portion of the County. He voiced frustration regarding mailed notifications and the installation of signage regarding a possible rezoning of the property.

Following discussion regarding Commercial zoning and what that may mean for the future, Planning Director Greg Elkins stated that if the business was enhanced in order to open a full service restaurant, that additional permits would be required, including additional parking spaces and handicap access. Commissioner Munn-Goins inquired of Mr. Elkins that all notifications had been properly advertised, mailed, and posted. Mr. Elkins stated that required rezoning notifications, mailings, and postings had been properly met.

- B. Chairman Britt revisited the motion on the floor; Commissioner Trivette made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Cogdell provided a second. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 8. Health and Human Services Agency: (Travis Greer, Health Educator II)

- A. Mr. Greer expressed appreciation to be able to present 2019 County Health Rankings report published annually by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

He stated that the County Health Rankings measure the health of county populations in all 50 states based on more than 30 factors. Bladen County ranked 93rd among North Carolina's 100 counties in the 2019 report. He stated that Bladen County's ranking had improved from 95th since the previous report.

Mr. Greer stressed that there is additional work to do to encourage healthy living, nutrition, exercise, and overall wellness. However, he did state that it would take generations to improve rankings significantly.

The Board expressed appreciation for the update and ongoing efforts to encourage healthy living.

ITEM 9. Emergency Medical Services: (David Howell, Director)

- A. Mr. Howell provided an overview of an AirLink Medical Transportation Services-One Call Agreement. He stated that this service has been utilized by Bladen County for some time. However, a formal agreement had never been developed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously approved an AirLink Medical Transportation Services-One Call Agreement.

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

- A. Ms. Davis provided an overview of a bid submitted in the amount of \$8,280 by Lovan Simpson and Sharn Keith. She stated that the county-owned .2 acre tract of land (PIN No. 2235 0082 2953), located at 37 Beatty Road in the Colly township, has been assessed a \$34,181 tax valuation. She further stated that the investment to the county is \$8,280.

Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously accepted the bid in the amount of \$8,280 for county-owned property (PIN No. 2235 0082 2953) located at 37 Beatty Road. By accepting the bid submitted by Mr. Simpson and Mr. Keith, the upset bid process was initiated.

- B. Ms. Davis provided an overview of a bid submitted in the amount of \$4,310 by Margie R. Carterette Cribb. She stated that the county-owned .23 acre tract of land (PIN No. 0268 1312 2621), located at 15528 NC 131 Hwy., Bladenboro, has been assessed a \$10,990 tax valuation. She further stated that the investment to the county is \$4,310.

Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously accepted the bid in the amount of \$4,310 for county-owned property (PIN No. 0268 1312

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2621) located at 15528 NC 131 Hwy., Bladenboro. By accepting the bid submitted by Ms. Cribb, the upset bid process was initiated.

ITEM 11. General Services: (Kip McClary, Director)

A. Mr. McClary provided an overview of an After Hours Support Contract with MTS. He stated that this agreement will allow support for the lock and security system installed in the Detention and Law Enforcement Center. He stated that MTS holds the software license required to provide technical assistance and support services.

Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved an After Hours Support Contract with MTS.

ITEM 12. Emergency Services: (Nathan Dowless, Director)

A. Mr. Dowless provided an overview of a Contract for Consultant Services with Holland Consulting Planners (HCP). He stated that this agreement would allow for administrative services to be rendered regarding Hurricane Matthew Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs (HMGP)-Elevation, Mitigation Reconstruction, and Acquisition through the State Acquisition and Relocation Fund (SARF) Program.

Following brief discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Contract for Consultant Services with Holland Consulting Planners (HCP).

ITEM 13. Advisory Board Appointments:

A. **Bay Tree Lakes Fire District Committee (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board, waiving the rules on term limits, unanimously reappointed Albert Beatty to a three-year term, with the term expiring November 3, 2022; and appointed Billy McGavock to an unexpired term, with the term expiring November 3, 2021.

ITEM 14. 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 15. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration During January 21, 2020 Meeting:

- A. Airport Appeals Board (2)
- B. Elizabethtown Planning and Zoning Commission & Board of Adjustments (ETJ) (2)

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ITEM 16. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

Chairman Britt briefly recessed the meeting at 8:00pm.

Chairman Britt reconvened the meeting at 8:05pm.

ITEM 17. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

No one brought an item to the Board's attention.

ITEM 18. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of December 2019 and January 2020.
- B. Mr. Martin briefly reviewed Rules of Procedure with the Board. He stated that if there are no requested revisions prior to the December 16 Board meeting, that the Rules of Procedure may be included on the Consent Agenda for approval as presented.
- C. Mr. Martin briefly reviewed the Code of Ethics with the Board. He stated that once the Board members had an opportunity to review the Code and if there are no requested revisions prior to the December 16 Board meeting, the Code of Ethics may be included on the December 16 Consent Agenda for approval as presented.

ITEM 19. Closed Session:

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously entered Closed Session at 8:11pm in Accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) Economic Development and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) Property Purchase.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously exited Closed Session at 9:09pm.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Ray Britt, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners