

February 13, 2017

A special meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 5:30 pm on Monday, February 13, 2017 in the Powell-Melvin Agricultural Center Auditorium, 450 Smith Circle, Elizabethtown, NC.

The following members were present:

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman

Ray Britt, Vice Chairman

Russell Priest

Arthur Bullock

Daniel Dowless

G. Michael Cogdell

Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins

Ashley S. Trivette

David R. Gooden

ITEM 1. Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:36pm.

A. Chairman Peterson provided an invocation.

B. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Sheriff's Office: (Sheriff James A. McVicker)

A. Chairman Peterson reviewed the SWOT analysis identified item regarding law enforcement and safety. He invited Sheriff McVicker to address the identified items.

Following discussion, the Board expressed appreciation to Sheriff McVicker.

ITEM 3. LKC Engineering, PLLC: (Adam Kiker, PE)

A. Mr. Kiker expressed appreciation to the Board for an opportunity to provide an update regarding a proposed Phase IV Water Expansion Project. He stated that water meters which have exceeded usefulness would be replaced, along with establishing a new well site and expanding water service to approximately 50 miles of county roads. Not only would this add approximately 66 customers who have already indicated interest, but system hydraulic efficiencies would be enhanced. Mr. Kiker stated that there are a total of 118 households in the proposed expansion area.

Mr. Kiker stated that the proposed expansion would cost approximately \$4,953,000. US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is ready to fund the project, pending final scope of construction.

Mr. Kiker reminded the Board that following the initial construction of the existing water system and previous expansions, areas of expansion are more sparsely populated.

The Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Kiker for the update and requested that cost projection be revised to include roads on the list of potential roads.

ITEM 4. Consider Scheduling Next Meetings As Needed:

Chairman Peterson reviewed identified items from a recent SWOT analysis regarding Education, Mental Health and Health.

A. Education:

Bladen County Superintendent Dr. Taylor has contacted Mr. Martin regarding a joint meeting of the Board of Commissioners and Board of Education to discuss budget issues, along with a possible school consolidation.

B. Mental Health:

Mental Health issues were discussed briefly. A joint meeting of the Board of Commissioners and Eastpointe/Cardinal Innovations was discussed in order to address the perceived needs of Bladen County.

C. Health:

Health related issues identified during the SWOT analysis were discussed. Following discussion, the Board wishes to involve the Parks & Recreation

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Department and the Bladen Healthy Collaborative Initiative to further discuss potential physical fitness opportunities.

ITEM 5. Closed Session:

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board entered Closed Session at 7:28 pm in Accordance with NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board exited Closed Session at 8:25 pm.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners