

April 18, 2017

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 18, 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
 Ophelia Munn-Goins
 Ashley Trivette
 G. Michael Cogdell
 Daniel Dowless
 David R. Gooden

Excused: Russell Priest

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order.

Reverend Charles Hester, Bladen Baptist Association, provided the Invocation. Guest 4H'er Ashanti Munn-Goins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Peterson stated that Commissioner Priest has been excused from the meeting and Commissioner Bullock must leave at 7:00pm.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

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

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of March 30, 2017 Special Meeting.
- C. Minutes of April 3, 2017 Regular Meeting.
- D. Minutes of April 5, 2017 Special Meeting.
- E. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	185.00	
104500.270	Advertising	120.16	
Revenues			
103170.040	Sale of Asset	305.16	

Bid preparation deed fees, advertising on property at 85 Home Run Drive.

Tax Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104500.192	Professional Services Legal	6,000.00	
104500.192.002	Foreclosures	19,000.00	
Revenues			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	25,000.00	

Foreclosures.

Parks and Recreation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106600.499	Miscellaneous Recreation	2,000.00	
Revenues			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	2,000.00	

Insurance payment for damaged batting cage during Hurricane.

Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106900.903	To DSS	13,494.00	
Revenues			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	13,494.00	

To cover cost associated with psychological evaluations for children in Foster Care.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.599	Family Reunification	13,494.00	
Revenues			
143550.080	From General Fund	13,494.00	

To cover cost associated with psychological evaluations for children in Foster Care.

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Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.689	Energy Neighbor	450.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.031	Energy Neighbor	450.00	

Funding Authorization #11.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.689	Energy Neighbor	456.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.031	Energy Neighbor	456.00	

Funding Authorization #12.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness	500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.028	Child Abuse Awareness	500.00	

Donations for the Child Abuse Awareness event.

Solid Waste

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
205805.350	M/R Building and Grounds	1,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
203190.011	Insurance Claims	1,000.00	

Repairs completed during Hurricane Matthew.

F. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
3/31/2017	Human Resources	\$ 1,975.00
4/01/2017	April-2017 Retainer	\$ 300.00
4/03/2017	Health Department	\$ 5,525.00
4/107/2017	Water District	\$ 550.00
	Total	\$ 8,350.00

- G. Tax Refunds and Releases No. 3-17, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.
- H. Compensation Agreement with Bladen's Bloomin'/Agri-Industrial, Inc. regarding Economic Development Secretary.
- I. Soil & Water Conservation Grant Agreement with the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services regarding a Stream Debris Removal Project.

ITEM 3. Years of Service Recognition:

- A. The following employees were recognized for years of service to Bladen County and its citizens:

Employee	Department	Years of Service
Jason Bryant	Animal Control	10
Amelia Batten	E M S	5
Desmond Gillespie	Housekeeping	10
Sherry Lanier	Solid Waste	10
Clay Carroll	Sheriff's Office	5
Robert Duggan	Sheriff's Office	5
Dominique Davis	Sheriff's Office	5
Tony Sessoms	Sheriff's Office	25

- B. Chairman Peterson briefly recessed the meeting at 6:39pm for a reception in honor of the recognized employees.
Chairman Peterson reconvened the meeting at 6:50pm.

ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Chairman Peterson recognized Commissioner Cogdell to address the Board. Commissioner Cogdell asked that Mr. Martin research the feasibility of having a group photo of the Board of Commissioners posted in County facilities. Mr. Martin stated that he would do so.

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Following discussion and upon a motion by Commission Britt, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Caring for Children, Inc.

- B. Mrs. Smith provided information regarding a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with East Coast Migrant Head Start. This agreement addresses the provision of family preservation and support services on an as-needed basis to families enrolled at the East Coast Migrant Head Start project. The agreement also provides that Bladen County DSS provides East Coast Migrant Head Start staff training on child abuse/neglect that will include preventing, recognizing, responding to and reporting child abuse/neglect as well as responding to families in crisis.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved a Memorandum of Agreement with East Coast Migrant Head Start.

ITEM 9. Health & Human Services Agency: (David Howard, Director)

- A. Mr. Howard provided a brief overview of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Bladen County Health Department and Columbus County Health Department regarding a referral collaboration between the agencies for coloscopies.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Columbus County Health Department.

- B. Mr. Howard reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Cape Fear Valley Women's Health Specialists addressing a referral collaboration between the agencies for coloscopies.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Cape Fear Valley Women's Health Specialists.

ITEM 10. Sheriff's Office: (Jim McVicker, Sheriff)

- A. Sheriff McVicker and Captain Jeff Singletary were recognized to address the Board regarding a request for additional detention center staff and deputy positions. Sheriff McVicker and Captain Singletary provided information and a memorandum in support of additional staff positions. Recommendations are for minimum staffing levels and include adding two (2) deputy positions and three (3) detention staff positions.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to include five (5) additional positions to discussion during a scheduled April 24, 2017 Special meeting regarding the budget.

ITEM 11. Economic Development: (Chuck Heustess, Director)

- A. Mr. Heustess briefly discussed proposed amendments to the Economic Development Commission By-Laws to more closely address EDC activities and responsibilities. Also a second representative from the Board of County Commissioners has been proposed.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously tabled approval of Economic Development Commission amended By-Laws to a future meeting.

ITEM 12. Advisory Board Appointments:

- A. **Bladenboro Rural Fire District Committee (3):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously tabled appointments to a future meeting.

- B. **Keep Bladen Beautiful (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously reappointed Amy Bernhardt to a three-year term of service with the term expiring March 31, 2017.

ITEM 13. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

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- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for April and May 2017.
- B. Mr. Martin provided a brief overview of a proposed amendment to a Bladen County Personnel Policy regarding Voluntary Shared Leave. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved the following amendment:

4.1 Eligibility

To be eligible, an employee must ~~have been employed for a period of 12 consecutive months and~~ apply or be nominated to receive voluntary shared leave, supplying medical evidence to support the need for leave beyond the employee's available accumulated leave. The employee must have exhausted all annual and sick leave.

- C. Mr. Martin reviewed a proposed amendment to a Courthouse Security Ordinance, specifically regarding replacing ID access cards. Following is the proposed amendment to the ordinance:

A. Access to Restricted Areas:

2. Local attorney, Judicial Officials and staff, out-of-county attorneys and their employees may apply for an ID access card by filling out an application with the Sheriff's Office. One no-fee card will be issued per applicant, ~~and if necessary one (1) replacement card will be issued at no cost. There will be a \$25 fee for a duplicate card to replace a lost or stolen card.~~ There will be a \$5.00 fee for additional replacement cards.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board approved the amendment. However, since two (2) Board members were not in attendance (Priest, Bullock), the proposed amendment will require a second reading by the Board during the May 1, 2017 meeting.

ITEM 14. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address the Board:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

ITEM 15. Closed Session

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously entered Closed Session at 7:54pm, in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4) Industrial/Economic Development and NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board exited Closed Session at 8:52pm.

Board of Equalization and Review items were briefly discussed and will be addressed at a future Board of Equalization and Review meeting.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners