

May 22, 2017

The Bladen County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting regarding the FY 2017-18 Proposed Budget and Tax Matters at 5:30pm on Monday, May 22, 2017 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman

Ray Britt

G. Michael Cogdell

Daniel Dowless

Arthur Bullock

David Gooden

Ashley Trivette

Ophelia Munn-Goins

Russell Priest

ITEM 1. Call to Order

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order.

- A. An invocation was provided by Chairman Peterson.
- B. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by County Manager Greg Martin.

ITEM 2. Revenue Administration: (Renee Davis, Tax Assessor)

- A. Mrs. Davis provided an overview of a county-owned property (Parcel ID: 0047959) located at 1130 Murray Haywood Road. Ms. Sarah Watson Kelly placed a bid on May 3, 2017 in the amount of \$8,905. The County's expense at the time for foreclosure was \$8,905.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board unanimously accepted Ms. Kelly's bid to begin the upset bid procedure.

- B. Mrs. Davis provided an overview of a county-owned property (Parcel ID: 0021452) located on Microwave Tower Road. Mr. Paul Brunson placed a bid of \$4,400 on May 8, 2017 for the property. The County's expense at the time of foreclosure was \$4,400.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously accepted Mr. Brunson's bid to begin the upset bid procedure.

Mrs. Davis requested the Board to consider holding an additional Board of Equalization and Review meeting. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board scheduled a Board of Equalization and Review meeting at 5:30pm on Monday, June 5, 2017.

ITEM 3. Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget Information and Discussion:

- A. Mr. Martin provided a detailed review of the proposed FY 2017-18 budget information.

Mr. Martin stated that the proposed budget has been developed in a manner consistent with the County's vision of "providing customer focused county services efficiently and responsibly."

Mr. Martin shared an overview which included several issues impacting the budget, as follows:

- Implementation of a compensation study.
- Capital needs for Bladen Community College, County facilities, and public safety equipment.
- Staffing and operating expenses related to opening of the new detention and law enforcement center.

General Fund highlights included a proposed general fund budget of \$42,933,173, which reflects a 1.67% increase over the FY 2016-17 adopted budget, while

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maintaining the existing tax rate of \$.82. Fund balance appropriations have been budgeted for one-time expenditures for capital items.

Projected tax base is \$2,717,904,135, including a 3.3% increase in property value, with a tax collection rate projection of 95.48%. Sales Tax accounts for approximately 12.29% of General Fund revenue. A total of \$1,455,329 in sales tax revenue is earmarked for debt service and capital expenditures for Bladen County Schools.

Chairman Peterson briefly recessed the meeting at 6:15pm.

Chairman Peterson reconvened the meeting at 6:21pm.

Mr. Martin reviewed fund balance appropriations, personnel, employee benefits, and capital items, as well as funding for Bladen County Schools and Bladen Community College.

An overview of economic development expenditures was discussed, along with Bladen County Water District and a planned Phase IV expansion project. Annual debt service is \$1,105,721, or 52.6% of the water fund budget.

In closing, Mr. Martin stated that the budget includes a large investment in Public Safety, Education, and Human Services. It implements the first phase of a Compensation Study, as well as utilizes budget estimates which more closely reflect recent revenue history. Also, fund balance will be appropriated for capital needs only.

ITEM 4. Discussion:

Following discussion, Chairman Peterson expressed appreciation to County Manager Greg Martin and Finance Officer Lisa Coleman for their diligent work on the budget and supporting information.

Chairman Peterson also addressed items of importance which will be included on the upcoming regular meeting agenda. The first of which is a project to develop a plan for a picture of the Board of County Commissioners to be placed in each county facility. Chairman Peterson also presented information regarding a request for waiver of inspection fees. He provided a brief overview of a meeting with Eastpointe, hosted by the Board of Education, which is scheduled for 9am on Wednesday, June 14, at the Bladen County Central Office.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously adjourned the meeting at 7:08 pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman