

September 5, 2017

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 5, 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
- Ophelia Munn-Goins
- Russell Priest
- Ashley Trivette

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order.

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

Chairman Peterson took a moment to recognize that "In God We Trust" had recently been installed on the front of the Courthouse and on the Bladen County Detention & Law Enforcement Center.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

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

- A. Amended Agenda, to include Item 8C-FY 2017-18 Municipal Fire Department Funding Agreement and Item 14A-Closed Session in Accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) Attorney-Client Privilege. Item 8C was added for consideration as an emergent issue due to possible impact from Hurricane Irma.
- B. Minutes of August 21, 2017 Regular Meeting.
- C. Minutes of August 28, 2017 Special Meeting.
- D. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Central Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105000.350	M/R Building & Grounds	3,863.53	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	3,863.53	

Cost to remove old light pole at Health Department, which was hit by a car. New light pole will be installed.

Emergency Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105300.350	M/R Training Center	11,274.56	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	11,274.56	

Rollover of Insurance Claims to fix fence, sign, and roof at Training Center that was damaged by Hurricane Matthew.

Emergency Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105300.499	Miscellaneous Expense	546.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	546.00	

Rollover fire association funding from White Lake, reimbursement by US Marines.

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 for supplies and travel.

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Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.565	Child Day Care		8,534.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.310	Child Day Care		8,534.00

Funding Authorization #1.

E. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
8/01/17	Administration/Human Resources	\$ 525.00
8/01/17	Administration	\$ 375.00
8/02/17	Sheriff's Office	\$ 675.00
8/08/17	Tax Administration	\$ 575.00
8/08/17	Sheriff's Office	\$ 550.00
8/09/17	Sheriff's Office	\$ 750.00
8/10/17	Tax Administration	\$ 1,525.00
8/11/17	Sheriff's Office	\$ 525.00
8/21/17	Sheriff's Office	\$ 1,525.00
8/23/17	Sheriff's Office	\$ 475.00
9/01/17	Retainer – September 2017	\$ 300.00
	Total	\$ 7,800.00

F. Bladen Community College FY 2017-18 Budget Review.

G. FY 2017-18 Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) Fund for the Benefit of Bladen Area Rural Transportation System (BARTS).

H. Bladen Area Rural Transportation System (BARTS) Drug and Alcohol Policy.

I. Interlocal Agreement with Cumberland County for Building Inspection Services for a Solar Farm.

J. Interlocal Agreement with Onslow County for the Transfer, Detention, and Care of Bladen County Inmates.

ITEM 3. Public Hearings:

A. Chairman Peterson declared open a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a proposed text amendment to the Bladen County Zoning Ordinance regarding the permitting of solar farms.
No one addressed the Board.

Chairman Peterson declared closed the Public Hearing.

B. Chairman Peterson declared open a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a proposed five-year incentive grant with Smithfield Farmland Corporation.
No one addressed the Board.

Chairman Peterson declared closed the Public Hearing.

C. Chairman Peterson declared open a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding a Disaster Recovery Act 2017 Grant Application.
No one addressed the Board.

Chairman Peterson declared closed the Public Hearing.

ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address the Board:

Chairman Peterson recognized Reverend Larry Hayes to address the Board. Reverend Hayes expressed appreciation to the Board for approving and embracing "In God We Trust" being prominently displayed on the Courthouse, and Detention and Law Enforcement Center. He also extended invitations to the Board and those in attendance to attend a Cry Out America ceremony scheduled for 6pm on Monday, September 11. It is to be held on the Courthouse Lawn.

ITEM 5. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

No one brought an item to the floor for discussion.

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ITEM 6. Planning Department: (Greg Elkins, Director)

- A. Mr. Elkins provided an overview of a proposed text amendment to the Bladen County Zoning Ordinance regarding the permitting of solar farms. He stated that by adopting the proposed amendment, development requirements would include a Special Use permitting process.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously adopted a text amendment to the Bladen County Zoning Ordinance regarding the permitting of solar farms.

ITEM 7. Economic Development: (Chuck Heustess, Director)

- A. Mr. Heustess provided a brief overview of a proposed five-year Incentive Grant with Smithfield Farmland Corporation. The incentive grant addresses an expansion project to begin within six months. The project shall include construction of a new distribution and processing facility in Bladen County of approximately 500,000 feet, and the installation of all new capital equipment and machinery at the new facility. The Facility and Equipment shall comprise a new taxable investment in Bladen County valued within the range of \$75,000,000 to \$145,000,000, as to be determined by the appraisal of the Bladen County Tax Assessor. The grant is to be based solely on the assessed value of the Facility and Equipment. Smithfield furthermore shall create no fewer than 270 new permanent jobs in Bladen County within two (2) years of the Agreement date and shall maintain this number of new permanent jobs throughout the grant period. Smithfield shall also maintain no less than 4,500 fulltime job positions, including the 270 new permanent, full time positions at the Tar Heel, NC site. The average hourly wage for the new positions to be created shall be no less than \$14 per hour for a forty (40) hour week for the duration of the grant period. Provided that Smithfield satisfies all of the grant criteria, by agreeing to the value of the Facility and Equipment as determined by the sole discretion of the Bladen County Tax Assessor and having paid all applicable local taxes, the County shall provide a grant to Smithfield in an amount based on .574% of the new capital investment for the given tax year minus the assessed value of any equipment taken out of service as a result of the expansion project. The total grant award shall not exceed an amount equal to 70% of the taxes paid by Smithfield on the new taxable investment in the given tax year.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board unanimously approved a five-year Incentive Grant with Smithfield Farmland Corporation.

ITEM 8. Emergency Services: (Bradley Kinlaw, Director)

- A. Mr. Kinlaw provided a brief overview of a Disaster Recovery Act 2017 Grant application. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved an application for the Disaster Recovery Act 2017 Grant.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously scheduled Public Hearings for 6:30pm on September 18, 2017 and October 2, 2017 to receive comments regarding an upcoming Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR).
- C. Mr. Kinlaw introduced an amended FY 2017-18 Municipal Fire Department Funding Agreement. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved an amended FY 2017-18 Municipal Fire Department Funding Agreement.

ITEM 9. Bladen Area Rural Transportation System: (Kent Porter, Supervisor)

- A. Mr. Porter presented a BARTS Disruptive Behavior and Direct Threat Policy. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board unanimously approved a BARTS Disruptive Behavior and Direct Threat Policy.

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ITEM 10. Parks and Recreation Department: (Grant Pait, Director)

A. Mr. Pait provided an overview of an agreement with East Carolina University to allow for the Bladen County Parks & Recreation master plan to be updated. Mr. Pait stated that ECU had completed the initial master plan in 2009. He also stated that having a current master plan in place strengthens a PARTF grant application.

Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved a Master Plan Agreement with East Carolina University.

ITEM 11. Advisory Board Appointments:

A. **Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously tabled appointments to a future meeting.

B. **Planning Board (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously tabled appointments to a future meeting.

ITEM 12. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration at the September 18, 2017 Meeting:

A. Keep Bladen Beautiful (3)

B. Voluntary Agricultural Districts Committee (1)

ITEM 13. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of September and October, 2017.

ITEM 14. Closed Session:

A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously entered Closed Session in Accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a) (3) Attorney-Client at 7:04pm.

B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board exited Closed Session at 7:52pm.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:53pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners