

September 18, 2017

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, September 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
- 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 Kynslie Kinlaw led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Dowles, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Amended Agenda, to include Item 5B-Update Regarding Federal Funding.
- B. Minutes of August 31, 2017 Recessed Special Meeting.
- C. Minutes of September 5, 2017 Regular Meeting.
- D. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104100.598	Settlement	900,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	900,000.00	

Sledge case: Insurance proceeds of \$3.1 million and County share of \$900,000. Total settlement of \$4 million.

Sheriff

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.738	Crime Scene Grant	1,148.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103270.024	Sheriff-Crime Scene Grant	1,148.00	

Rollover unspent grant funds.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105900.5980.120	Salaries		44,396.00
105900.5980.122	Bonus		522.00
105900.5980.181	FICA		5,500.00
105900.5980.182	Retirement		5,000.00
105900.5980.183	Group Insurance		11,000.00
105900.5980.185	Retiree Health Insurance		5,000.00
105900.5980.200	Supplies		950.00
105900.5980.251	Vehicle Fuels		300.00
105900.5980.252	Vehicle Usage		900.00
105900.5980.321	Telephone		1,800.00
105900.5980.610	Contract Services		20,084.00
105900.5980.499.038	Incentives		6,086.00
105900.5980.990	Contingency		4,116.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.158	DHHS-Young Families Connect		105,654.00

Reduction in funding for Young Families Connect. Program Ending.

Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106900.901.002	To Single Family Rehab	10,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	10,000.00	

Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (SFRLP1502).

September 18, 2017

Department of Social Services

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

Funding Authorization #3.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.571	United Way – Caring for Kids	750.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.344	United Way – Caring for Kids	750.00	

Donation from United Way.

Single Family Rehab Loan Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
784990.621.001	Soft Cost	17,000.00	
784990.621.002	Hard Cost	153,000.00	
784990.960.001	Admin	10,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
783970.023	Single Family Rehab	170,000.00	
783422.002	Fm General Fund	10,000.00	

Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (SFRLP1502).

E. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
8/11/17	Economic Development	\$ 1,950.00
8/15/17	Sheriff’s Office	\$ 1,625.00
8/22/17	Sheriff’s Office	\$ 1,550.00
8/25/17	Emergency Services	\$ 525.00
8/31/17	Parks & Recreation	\$ 625.00
8/31/17	Division on Aging/BARTS	\$ 595.00
9/08/17	Sheriff’s Office	\$ 220.00
	Total	\$ 7,090.00

- F. Tax Releases No. 8-17, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.
- G. Agreement with Maximus Consulting Services, Inc. to Provide Professional Consulting Services.
- H. Accept a Donation in the Amount of \$9,000 to Fund a Football Press Box Construction Project at the Bladen County Park.
- I. One Time Appropriation in the Amount of \$200 for United Way Day of Caring.
- J. FY 2017-18 Seniors Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) Grant Agreement in the Amount of \$2,060.
- K. Donation of North Carolina and County of Bladen Flags to Boost the ‘Boro.

ITEM 3. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address the Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

No one brought an item to the floor for discussion.

ITEM 5. Public Hearing:

- A. Chairman Peterson declared open a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding needs in relation to the Hurricane Matthew related Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding.
No one addressed the Board.
Chairman Peterson declared closed the Public Hearing.
- B. Bradley Kinlaw was recognized to address the Board to provide a brief update regarding federal funding of a Hurricane Matthew Recovery Program. Mr. Kinlaw stated that he had received notification that federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for this program has been frozen.

ITEM 6. Bladen County Schools: (Dr. Robert Taylor, Superintendent)

A. Chairman Peterson recognized Dr. Robert Taylor to provide an update to the Board regarding proposed capital projects.

Chairman Peterson shared information regarding the Board of Commissioners' role regarding public schools. The Board of Education provides governance of policy, procedure, and location of school facilities. The Board of County Commissioners provides county funding related to the operation of the school system.

Dr. Taylor expressed appreciation to the Board. He provided an overview of the enrollment of the school system, along with enrollment projections for upcoming years. He stated that projections for the upcoming years indicate a reduction of approximately 25 students per year for the next five (5) years, with current total enrollment of 4,495, including Pre-K students.

Dr. Taylor also reviewed the age of each of the school buildings for additional information.

He shared that community forums were held regarding consolidation in order to receive comments from the public. Forums were held during fiscal year 2016-17 in Tar Heel, Clarkton, East Arcadia, and Elizabethtown.

Dr. Taylor stated that the consolidation of Booker T. Washington, Clarkton School of Discovery, East Arcadia School and Elizabethtown Primary is anticipated for the fall of 2018. This move would close Booker T. Washington altogether. Students from East Arcadia and Elizabethtown Primary schools would be redistricted to other facilities. Redistricting could take place in the Bladen Lakes Primary, Elizabethtown Primary and East Arcadia Schools, if students did not ask to be transferred to other private or charter schools.

Dr. Taylor indicated that discussion had included a project to construct a new K-8 school facility, in order to consolidate Plainview Primary and Tar Heel Middle schools.

Dr. Taylor reviewed Consolidation Proposals which the Board of Education had developed during an August 2017 retreat. **Option A** would include the closing of BTW, realign East Arcadia as a K-4 or K-5 school, redistrict Elizabethtown Primary and Bladen Lakes Primary as needed, construct a new K-8 facility in order to consolidate Plainview Primary and Tar Heel Middle schools, and to construct multi-purpose buildings and field houses and make other renovations. Dr. Taylor stated that Option A was developed to attempt to retain schools within communities. However, Option A would not address other issues.

Option B would include a new K-8 facility to consolidate Dublin, Plainview, Tar Heel Middle, with a location yet to be determined; a new K-8 facility to consolidate BTW, Clarkton School of Discovery, and East Arcadia schools, to a location yet to be determined; redistrict Elizabethtown Primary and Bladen Lakes Primary as needed; and construct multi-purpose buildings and field houses and make other renovations.

Dr. Taylor indicated that, with declining enrollment (estimated approximately 4,150 by 2022) and reducing the number of school facilities from 13 to 9 by taking some of the oldest facilities out of service, Option B would be the most effective for the County. He stated that the older buildings would be demolished or repurposed.

He stated that Option B could create substantial savings in funding; \$417,000 from K-8 for Plainview, Tar Heel Middle and Dublin; and \$534,000 from K-8 for BTW, Clarkton School of Discovery and East Arcadia schools. The anticipated savings would be a combination of local funds, as well as state funds.

Construction estimates for the two (2) K-8 facilities range from between \$38 million to \$56 million. Public School facilities must meet certain state criteria, to which charter schools do not have to adhere.

Dr. Taylor indicated that since Bladen County is designated as a Tier I county, assistance is available for "new capital projects", which includes new facility construction, major facility renovation or facility rehabilitation. The maximum award is currently \$15 million, which would be a match of \$3 for each \$1 spent by the county.

Dr. Taylor asked the Board to consider the two (2) options presented.

September 18, 2017

Commissioner Cogdell inquired regarding a bond referendum. Dr. Taylor indicated that the state assistance to Tier I counties would be considered by way of an application.

Dr. Taylor stated that if the county received \$15 million in assistance from the state, that lottery funds would not be available for five (5) years. Bladen County receives approximately \$300,000 in lottery funds annually.

Following discussion, Dr. Taylor indicated that the K-8 facility to consolidate Tar Heel, Plainview and Dublin would be a higher priority. New facilities could also assist in recruitment of teachers.

Dr. Taylor indicated that the Board of Education has identified Option B as the plan to better serve the county, and addresses short- and long-term issues.

Chairman Peterson asked the Board to submit questions or inquiries regarding schools to Greg Martin. Mr. Martin would gather the questions to be submitted to the Board of Education for additional information.

Commissioner Cogdell suggested that the County Commissioners meet in small groups to further discuss the options presented.

Following discussion regarding capital projects, the Board expressed appreciation to Dr. Taylor and Board of Education Chairman Rozier.

ITEM 7. Finance Department: (Lisa Coleman, Finance Director)

- A. Mrs. Coleman reviewed a financial dashboard report for the two-month period ending August 31, 2017.

ITEM 8. Health and Human Services Agency: (David Howard, Director)

- A. Mr. Howard provided a brief overview of a Clinical Instructional Agreement with Fayetteville State University regarding clinical training for nursing students. Upon a motion by Commissioner Munn-Goins, seconded by Commissioner Britt, the Board unanimously approved a Clinical Instructional Agreement with Fayetteville State University.
- B. Mr. Howard reviewed a proposed flu shot price increase which is necessitated by the rising cost of the flu vaccine. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved a 2017 fee increase for flu shots.
- C. Mr. Howard provided a brief overview of an Amended Health & Human Services Agency Advisory Committee (HHSAC) Operating Procedures document. Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously approved the amended HHSAC Operating Procedures.

ITEM 9. Bladen County Water District:

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gooden, seconded by Commissioner Munn-Goins, the Board unanimously exited regular Session and entered Session as Water District Board of Directors.
- B. Mr. Martin provided an overview of an amended water tank maintenance agreement. The amendment adds two (2) additional tanks to the schedule for maintenance. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the Board unanimously approved a \$17,849 multi-year Maintenance Agreement with Southern Corrosion Tank Care. Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Martin to obtain water district maps indicating placement of the new lines regarding a water expansion project.
- C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the Board exited session as Water District Board of Directors and re-entered Regular session.

September 18, 2017

ITEM 10. Advisory Board Appointments:

- A. **Industrial Facilities and Pollution Control Financing Authority (2):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously tabled appointments.
- B. **Keep Bladen Beautiful (3):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously tabled appointments.
- C. **Planning Board (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously tabled appointments.
- D. **Voluntary Agricultural Districts Committee (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Trivette, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously tabled appointments.

ITEM 11. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration at the October 16, 2017 Meeting:

- A. Keep Bladen Beautiful (1)

ITEM 12. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of September and October, 2017.
- B. Mr. Martin provided a brief overview of a proposed resolution received from the NC Department of Transportation regarding the addition of Gowen Road, located in the western part of the county, to the State Highway System.
Upon a motion by Commissioner Britt, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously adopted the following Resolution in support of adding Gowen Road to the State road system:



- C. The Board viewed a brief video update produced by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) regarding recent Association activities.

ITEM 13. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address the Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

Chairman Peterson addressed the Board regarding a framed picture of the former Farm Life Building in Bladenboro, which is now known as the Bladenboro Historical Society building. By consensus, the Board approved the display of the picture.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Trivette, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:45pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners