

February 16, 2015

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, February 16, 2015 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

- Charles Ray Peterson, Chairman
- Russell Priest
- Billy Ray Pait
- G. Michael Cogdell
- Daniel Dowless
- Wayne Edge
- Delilah Blanks
- James G. "Jimmie" Smith
- Arthur Bullock

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order. Reverend Larry Hayes, Good News Baptist Church of Bladenboro, provided the Invocation. County Manager Gregory J. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:
Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 2, 2015.
- C. Minutes of Special Meeting of February 9, 2015.
- D. Budget Amendments as follows:

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
1059005920.200	Supplies	4,980.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.090	DHHS-Family Planning	4,980.00	

Additional grant received from State.

JCPC-Support Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106805.647	JCPC-Support Services	34,751.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103230.026	JCPC-Support Services	34,751.00	

JCPC Support Services for 2014-2015.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
1461006160.535	Medicaid	621.89	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143591.010	Client Refund	621.89	

EPICS draft for October and November 2014.

Workers Compensation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
136801.900	To General Fund	99,838.07	
<i>Revenues</i>			
133190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	99,838.07	

Funding for new system in communications – approved in 2014-2015 budget.

Clarkton Fire Department

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
355335.191	Professional Services – Audit	2,500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
353190.050	Fund Balance Appropriation	2,500.00	

FY 2014 Audit for Clarkton Volunteer Fire Department.

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E. County Attorney Invoices:

Date	Department	Amount
1/31/15	Human Resources Dept.	\$ 610.00
2/01/15	Feb-15 Retainer	\$ 300.00
2/04/15	Sheriff's Office	\$ 265.31
2/05/15	Administration	\$ 510.00
2/10/15	Health Dept.	\$ 520.00
	Total	\$ 2,205.31

- F. Tax Releases and Refunds No. 1-15, , incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.
- G. Bladen Community College Appropriation Request for Additional Capital Funding.
- H. Moseley Architects, PC Amendment #2
- I. Special Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 3:30pm with Congressman David Rouzer, to be held in the Health Department conference room

ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

- A. Commissioner Smith requested an update from County Manager Greg Martin regarding the State of North Carolina and Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. Mr. Martin stated that PILT was ceased. The NC Senate and NC House were to appoint a Study Committee to research and make recommendations. Mr. Martin shared that this was a specific goal identified at a recent NC Association of County Commissioner legislative goals conference.
- B. Commissioner Cogdell requested that the Board to be updated regarding preparing the detention center site. Chairman Peterson stated that Mr. Martin would address this during his Detention Center update.

ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance addressed the Board of Commissioners.

ITEM 5. Finance Department: (Lisa Coleman, Finance Officer)

- A. Mrs. Coleman recognized CPA Bryon Scott of Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Company, PLLC in attendance and called on him to present and review the recently completed 2013-2014 audit.

Mr. Scott reviewed the audit and required auditor communications. Mr. Scott commended Financial Officer Lisa Coleman, staff, County Manager Greg Martin and each Department head for their diligence and assistance in making the audit process efficient and effective. Mr. Scott reviewed each of the major funds and comparisons to prior year. He stated that the only issue that needed to be discussed was lack of segregation of duties in departments that handle cash. This is an issue for many small local government units.

Mr. Scott completed his audit presentation by letting the Board know that he would be available to speak with any Board member at any time during the year should they wish to communicate with him.

- B. Finance Officer Lisa Colman reviewed a financial dashboard for the seven (7) months ending January 31, 2015.

ITEM 6. Human Resources Department: (Amy Pharr, Director)

- A. Mrs. Pharr presented a proposed policy change regarding receiving transferred sick leave hours from other governmental agencies. Traditionally, Bladen County's policy mirrored that of the State Retirement System. However,

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during a ten (10) year period (2002-2011), the State Retirement System amended its policy to accept in full sick leave hours from other government agencies and Bladen County amended its policy effective 2012 to do the same. Mrs. Pharr asked the Board for consideration of accepting sick leave hours in full for those employees who were hired during that ten-year period of time, and are still employed. No action was requested at this time.

B. Mrs. Pharr presented several amendments for Board review and consideration. Proposed policy amendments include:

- 1) Adverse Weather Conditions
- 2) Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace
- 3) Longevity Pay
- 4) Paid Holidays
- 5) Separation, Disciplinary Action and Reinstatement
- 6) Travel & Expense Reimbursement Policy
- 7) Use of Vehicles for County Business

Mrs. Pharr stated that each of these amendments could be presented in full during this meeting or a Special Meeting may need to be scheduled to allow for more time for the Board to consider proposed amendments. Chairman Peterson stated that a Special Meeting would be scheduled.

ITEM 7. Revenue Department: (Chris Ellis, Assessor)

- A. Mr. Ellis presented a Report of Unpaid 2014 Taxes that are liens on real property for review and consideration. The report presented indicated uncollected 2014 taxes in the amount of \$2,619,466, plus land fill fees, solid waste fees, late list charges, for a total of \$3,232,733. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Blanks, the Board unanimously received the Report of Unpaid 2014 Taxes that are liens on real property.
- B. Mr. Ellis presented a request to establish a deadline of March 20, 2015 for citizens to pay their past due taxes to avoid advertisement. Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously approved the March 20, 2015 deadline to pay 2014 taxes that are a first lien upon the property.
- C. Mr. Ellis provided an update to the Board regarding the 2015 Revaluation project. Tax value notices have now been mailed to property owners. Mr. Ellis anticipated the notices to be mailed by January 31, 2015. However, due to an issue at the printing vendor, mailing of the notices was delayed until February 12, 2015. Property owners have already started receiving their notices and have been scheduling appeals.

ITEM 8. Health and Human Services Agency: (Cris Harrelson, Director)

- A. Mr. Harrelson presented an application for membership into a group purchasing organization, Premier. Membership benefits would include a significant cost savings in supplies for various programs. Premier leverages the purchasing power of its membership businesses to obtain discounts from vendors based on the collective buying power of GPO members. Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously approved a membership application into Premier, a group purchasing organization.
- B. Mr. Harrelson reviewed the Health & Human Services Advisory Committee, which was established along with the consolidation of Health and DSS. When the advisory committee was appointed, terms of appointment were not staggered which created each of the membership to all have the same term expiration date of December 31, 2015. Mr. Harrelson stated that during a recent advisory committee meeting and in order to facilitate staggered terms, committee members were divided into three groups and assigned revised or

extended membership terms ending on December 31, 2015, December 31, 2016 or December 31, 2017.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Edge the Board unanimously approved the following revised term expiration dates for the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Revised Expiration Date</u>
Patty Yoder	12/31/16
Carl deAndrade	12/31/17
Terri Duncan	12/31/17
Louella Thompson	12/31/17
Tommy Thompson	12/31/16
Charles Peterson	12/31/16
Dr. Mollie Glenn	12/31/16

- C. Mr. Harrelson provided an update regarding Foster Care unit and the increased caseloads. In order to maintain state caseload size, Mr. Harrelson presented a reclassification of an Income Maintenance Caseworker II (currently vacant) to Social Worker III in the Foster Care unit. The transfer of a vacant position from the Economic Services program to the Child Welfare program will prevent additional costs (significant overtime and stress on Social Workers) to the county. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously approved reclassification of an Income Maintenance Caseworker II to a Social Worker III for the Foster Care unit.

ITEM 9. Emergency Medical Services: (David Howell, Chief)

- A. Chief Howell presented fee increase recommendations on behalf of EMS Management. Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, seconded by Commissioner Bullock the Board unanimously approved fee increases as presented.

ITEM 10. General Services Department: (Robert Mazur, Director)

- A. Mr. Mazur requested the Board to consider an application for a Convenience Center Comingled Recycling Collection Grant Program. The program would pay \$31,000 for two collection sites. Bladen County's share would be approximately \$6,994. Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Board unanimously approved an application for a Convenience Center Comingled Recycling Collection Grant Program.

ITEM 11. Advisory Board Appointments:

- A. **Voluntary Agricultural District Advisory Committee (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Priest, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously appointed Albert Beatty to fill an unexpired term, with the term ending September 30, 2016.
- B. **Bladen County Nursing Home Advisory Committee (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously appointed David Howell to fill an unexpired term, with the term ending February 28, 2017.

ITEM 12. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of February and March, 2015

Prior to Mr. Martin providing an update regarding a Detention Center project, Chairman Peterson distributed renderings of a proposed detention center, including a law enforcement center.

- B. Mr. Martin provided an update regarding the Detention Center project. The next detention center committee meeting is scheduled for 10 am on Friday, March 6, 2015. Judge Sasser will be invited to attend the upcoming meeting

for his input regarding video conferencing. Sheriff's Office employees along with 911 staff members will also be invited to participate in upcoming meetings.

Mr. Martin stated that Bordeaux will apply for a Soil and Erosion Control permit from DENR for site preparation. Approximately 6 acres will be marked and timber will be harvested. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be developed for that service.

Commissioner Blanks asked about outreach sessions regarding subcontract work which may be available to local companies. Mr. Martin stated that outreach meetings will be scheduled by Bordeaux.

Chairman Peterson shared with the Board that solar power would not be an option for the Detention Center project. There was simply not enough payback to justify the capital outlay.

Chairman Peterson invited members of the Board to attend upcoming meetings. However, he asked that no more than four members attend at one time so a quorum of the Board is not established. He asked to please schedule attendance through County Manager Greg Martin.

Mr. Martin shared that he expects to present a CMaR agreement between Bladen County and Bordeaux for the Board's consideration at the March 2, 2015 meeting.

- C. Mr. Martin presented a Bladen County Public Schools Public School Building Capital Fund application through the NC Education Lottery. The application was for \$46,530 for roof repairs for the Agriculture Building/JROTC building at Elizabethtown Middle School. Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously tabled the request to a future meeting.
- D. Mr. Martin stated that filling the Library Director vacancy has been a challenge, with state requirements and the county's residency requirement. Mr. Martin presented a proposed amendment to the county's Personnel Policy as follows:
- Following an exhaustive search and having determined that there are no qualified applicants who reside in Bladen County or who are willing to relocate to Bladen County, the Board of Commissioners reserves the right to waive the residency requirement as determined on a case by case basis and majority approval by the County Commissioners.*
- Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Blanks, the Board unanimously amended the county Personnel Policy as presented.
- E. Mr. Martin shared that a qualified applicant has been located and has shown great interest in the Library Director position. The applicant lives in Pender County and is not in a position to relocate to Bladen County. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously waived the residency requirement for the applicant for the Library Director vacancy.
- F. The Board viewed a video update provided by the NC Association of County Commissioners regarding association activities.

ITEM 9.

Closed Session:

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously voted to enter into a Closed Session at 7:24pm in Accordance with NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

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- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blanks the Board exited Closed Session at 7:37pm. No action was taken during the Closed Session.

Chairman Peterson stated that recent conversation regarding the closed Detention Center at White Lake indicated that one of the following possibilities may take place:

- 1) Deed property to the Town of White Lake for a recreational facility
- 2) Deed property to the County of Bladen for fire/law/ems training facility
- 3) County of Bladen and Town of White Lake to each receive a portion of the property for its use

Chairman Peterson took a few minutes to explain the PreBudget survey which has been distributed through local news service as an outreach for citizens to provide input regarding the budget.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Priest, seconded by Commissioner Pait, a Special Meeting was scheduled for 6pm on March 9, 2015 for the purpose of reviewing and considering amendments to the Personnel Policy as presented by Human Resource Director Amy Pharr earlier in the meeting.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners