

February 24, 2014

A Special Meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:00 pm on Monday, February 24, 2014 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse, for the purpose of reviewing unpaid tax bills, charitable contribution requests and encouraging citizens to become Water District customers.

The following members were present:

James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Chairman

Mark Gillespie, Vice Chairperson

Billy Ray Pait

Daniel Dowless

G. Michael Cogdell

Wayne Edge

Russell Priest, arrived at 6:02pm

Delilah Blanks, arrived at 6:10pm

Charles Ray Peterson, arrived at 6:25pm

ITEM 1. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order, and provided the Invocation. County Manager Gregory J. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Dowless the Board approved the following Consent Item:

A. Agenda.

ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Commissioner Cogdell requested that County Manager Greg Martin update the Board in the near future regarding the county's emergency shelters and generators. Mr. Martin stated that he has been in meetings recently regarding the subject and will update the Board at an upcoming Board meeting.

ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance wished to address the Board.

ITEM 5. Review Unpaid Taxes

A. Tax Assessor Chris Ellis provided an overview of the outstanding taxes that are liens on real property. Of the \$146,000 on the 2004 outstanding report, \$1,787 represents real property. The balance of \$144,200 represents personal property, which includes, but is not limited to, mobile homes not underpinned, campers, all-terrain vehicles, boats and trailers. Of the 430 property owners on the 2004 listing, approximately 80% are also on subsequent years' unpaid tax listings.

Mr. Ellis explained the steps and procedures that are available to the Revenue Department to collect taxes. However, delinquent taxes on personal property do not stop the property from being transferred to another individual. Once the personal property is sold or is no longer in existence, collecting or repossessing the property is not an option. Also, should the property be taken into possession by the county, the county is responsible for its safe-keeping and storage.

Mr. Ellis discussed bank account attachments and garnishment of wages as two very powerful means to collect unpaid taxes. The process can be quite time-consuming to initiate. The property owner must be located and research must be completed to find an employer or banking partner.

Commissioner Peterson asked Mr. Ellis to prepare a schedule of the collection process to be presented at an upcoming regular Board meeting.

ITEM 6. Charitable Contribution Requests

A. East Arcadia Classy Kids 4-H

B. East Arcadia School Garden Club

After reviewing the contribution applications submitted by each of the clubs, it was the decision of the Board not to fund the requests at this time. Chairman Smith asked that correspondence be sent to each of the applicants advising the

February 24, 2014

determination and to encourage contact with the NC Extension Service for various resources of advice, programs, materials and supplies.

ITEM 7. Bladen County Water District:

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, second provided by Commissioner Gillespie and unanimously approved, the Board entered a session as Water District Board of Directors.
- B. Since the recent inclement weather, and subsequent power outages, the Board of Directors discussed the possibility of encouraging citizens within already established Water District service areas to become customers. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously approved reducing the tap-on fee from \$350 to \$250 for the period of March 1, 2014 until May 31, 2014.
- C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Edge, and unanimously approved, the Board exited a session as Water District Board of Directors.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

James G. Smith, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board