

**April 20, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 20, 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: Leslie 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 Pait, the Board approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 7, 2015.
- C. Budget Amendments as follows:

**Motor Pool**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>105010.253</b>	Vehicle Parts	1,221.48	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.011</b>	Insurance Claims	1,221.48	

Repairs needed for EMS vehicle.

**Health**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>1059005905.321</b>	Telephone	783.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103330.061</b>	DHHS-Environmental Health	783.00	

Additional grant received from state.

**Parks & Recreation**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>106600.499</b>	Miscellaneous Recreation	5,237.00	
<b>106600.321</b>	Telephone	1,200.00	
<b>106600.210</b>	Recreation Equipment	800.00	
<b>106600.350</b>	Maint/Repair Grounds	2,000.00	
<b>106600.610</b>	Contract Services	300.00	
<b>106600.803</b>	Insurance	335.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103660.010</b>	Recreation Fees	7,300.00	
<b>103660.000</b>	Insurance Fees	335.00	
<b>103190.010</b>	Miscellaneous Revenue	2,237.00	

Increase in revenue to cover expenses.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>146100.693</b>	Medicaid Transportation	100,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>143531.320</b>	Medicaid Transportation	100,000.00	

100% Federal reimbursement for current and future expenses.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>146100.6160.650.002</b>	Child Abuse Awareness	921.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>143190.028</b>	Child Abuse Awareness	921.00	

Donations for Child Abuse Awareness.

April 20, 2015

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness	250.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.028	Child Abuse Awareness	250.00	

Donations for Child Abuse Awareness.

**Water-Debt Service Fund**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
244702.744	Debt Service-Principal	290,000.00	
244702.745	Debt Service-Interest	326,388.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
243420.001	Fm Water Enterprise Fund	616,388.00	

To separate debt service payments for Limited Obligation Bonds.

**EMS**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
325302.499	Miscellaneous Expense	900.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
323170.040	Sale of Assets	900.00	

Purchase replacement recliners for East Arcadia and Kelly buildings for EMS.

**East Arcadia Fire Department**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
365336.499	Miscellaneous Expense	67,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
363190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	67,000.00	

To pay off the fire department building.

**Bladenboro Fire Department**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
425342.499	Miscellaneous Expense	25,000.00	
425342.990	Contingency		25,000.00

For baffle balls, plumbing fittings, and a pump for the military 5 ton. Also, repairs for Engine 512.

**D. County Attorney Invoices:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>
4/01/15	April-15 Retainer	\$ 300.00
4/09/15	Sheriff's Office	\$ 500.00
4/15/15	Sheriff's Office	\$ 660.00
3/11/15	E M S	\$ 510.00
4/16/15	Sheriff's Office	\$ 510.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,730.00</b>

- E. Scheduled Public Hearing for the Purpose of Receiving Comments Regarding the Closeout of a 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Scattered-Site Housing Program
- F. Fireworks Display at Oakland Plantation on April 25, 2015 in Accordance with NCGS 14.410.413.
- G. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) FY 2015-2016 Program Agreement in the amount of \$14,251.
- H. NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources Grant Agreement regarding a Bladen County 2015 Convenience Center Commingled Recycling Collection Project in the amount of \$37,994.

**ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:**

Commissioner Bullock presented information he obtained regarding a federal program which is designed to target young men and boys of color. At a prior meeting, Dr. Blanks expressed her concern regarding the racial disparity reflected in a recent jail population report. Chairman Peterson asked that County Manager Greg Martin receive the information from Commissioner Bullock and share it with Sheriff McVicker.

- A. Chairman Peterson recognized the following employees for their years of service to Bladen County and its citizens:

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Mary McKiver	BARTS	15
Ann-Marie Hinson	DSS	5
Brittany Preston	DSS	5
Amanda Sykes	DSS	10

April 20, 2015

Donna Parnell	Communications	5
Fay Collins	Health	15
Djuana Register	Health	25
Esther Babson	E M S	10

- B. County Manager Greg Martin introduced newly hired Library Director Kelsey Edwards. Mrs. Edwards expressed her appreciation to the Board for the opportunity to work with Bladen County.
- C. Chairman Peterson briefly recessed the meeting at 6:40pm for a reception in honor of the recognized employees.

Chairman Peterson reconvened the meeting at 6:58pm.

**ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

- A. Keep Bladen Beautiful Chairperson Sondra Guyton, member Erin Smith and advisor Steve Melson addressed the Board regarding the upcoming Litter Sweep. Keep NC Beautiful sponsors the sweeps and has identified April 18-May 2 and September 19-October 3, 2015 for local Litter Sweeps. Ms. Guyton encouraged communities and church groups to consider participating. She shared that KBB would be glad to assist in organizing, obtaining supplies and providing education for litter sweeps. Ms. Guyton invited everyone to attend a beautification project to be held on the campus of Bladen Community College on Saturday, April 25, 2015, to begin at 8am. Commissioner Blanks asked about an Adopt-A-Highway program which designates specific sections of roadways for litter pickup to groups that participate in the program. Mr. Melson stated that the Adopt-A-Highway is a state program. Participants must apply for the program and be approved.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved an appropriation in the amount of \$500 to West Bladen High School FFA Land Judging Team to assist with travel expenses to Oklahoma City for a national land judging competition in May, 2015.

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

- A. Mrs. Coleman reviewed the Financial Dashboard for the nine-month period ending March 31, 2015.
- B. Mrs. Coleman presented correspondence addressed to the NC Department of State Treasurer confirming measures to be implemented to address an identified weakness in the FY 2013-2014 audit. The internal control weakness (lack of separation of duties) is not uncommon for small, rural counties. Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Blanks, the Board unanimously approved the measures and the correspondence as presented.

**ITEM 6. Revenue Department: (Chris Ellis, Tax Assessor)**

- A. Mr. Ellis and Assessment Solutions Representative Tim Cain provided an update regarding a 2015 Revaluation project and its status. Mr. Cain stated that fewer sales for comparison created additional challenges for the project. Mr. Ellis stated that approximately 2,300 appeals have been received and that approximately 2,000 notifications are scheduled to be mailed on April 21 with approximately 1,400 adjusted tax valuations and approximately 560 notifications of no change. Chairman Peterson asked that the media include information in their publications to educate the public regarding the appeals process and that appeals can continue to be filed with the Tax Office.

Commissioner Cogdell inquired when tax valuation will be made available to the Board for consideration during the budgeting process, as well as for the Board of Equalization and Review. Chairman Peterson expressed his anticipation of the tax values as well.

April 20, 2015

**ITEM 7. Health and Human Services Agency: (Cris Harrelson, Director)**

- A. Mr. Harrelson provided an overview of Bladen County Health Rankings as released by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation earlier this year. Bladen County is ranked #88 out of 100 counties, which is an increase of three (3) slots from 2014 data. Mr. Harrelson reviewed each of the criteria considered in determining the rankings.
- B. Mr. Harrelson briefly reviewed an agreement with Columbus County Health Department regarding a LIGHT Project, a Minority Health Grant. He indicated that Bladen County's Health Educators will dedicate up to five hours per week (to be reimbursed at \$25.1784 per hour), for up to one year, to assist in the recruitment of Bladen County's faith organizations to include two African American churches and one Hispanic Latino church. Bladen County Health Department will partner with Columbus County Health Department to obtain baseline and ongoing data collected from community members regarding health concerns, participate on an Advisory Council and submit information for reporting.
- C. Mr. Harrelson briefly reviewed three legislative bills which may affect Public Health; Senate Bill 346-Enact Stricter Immunizations Requirements; Senate Bill 7-Allow Seats in Food Stands, and; House Bill 309-Got Natural Milk.

**ITEM 8. Bladen County Water District**

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board entered a session as Water District Board of Directors.
- B. Mr. Randy Garner introduced and turned over the session to Tim Carpenter and Adam Kiker of LKC Engineering. Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Kiker provided an overview of a proposed Phase IV Project and water district history, along with number of customers. Phase IV project includes possible water meter replacement. Of the 5,900 Water District customers, approximately 1,600 water meters are over 25 years old; 3,500 meters are approximately 15-10 year old and 800 meters are between 3-5 years old. Water meters now carry a warranty period of twenty (20) years and use newer technology to meter water usage. The older meters are mechanical and with wear over time, will not be able to precisely meter water usage. Following discussion regarding profitability of meter change-out and associated cost efficiencies, the Board indicated its willingness by consensus for LKC Engineering to proceed with additional research for this possible project and report back to the Board.
- C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board exited session as Water District Board of Directors.

**ITEM 9. Advisory Board Appointments:**

- A. **Keep Bladen Beautiful (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously appointed Amber Long as student representative from West Bladen High School to KBB for a period of three (3) years, with the term expiring April 20, 2018.
- B. **Elizabethtown Planning & Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustments (ETJ) (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously appointed Ashley Taylor Dowless to an unexpired term for a period of three (3) years, with the term expiring March 21, 2018.

**ITEM 10. County Manager: (Greg Martin)**

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of April and May, 2015

**April 20, 2015**

**ITEM 11. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

No one addressed the Board of Commissioners

**ITEM 12. Closed Session:**

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously entered Closed Session at 8:05pm in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143.318.11(a)(3) Attorney-Client Privilege and N.C.G.S. 143.318.11(a)(6) Personnel.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board exited Closed Session at 8:19pm.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles R. Peterson, Chairman  
Bladen County Board of Commissioners