

April 22, 2014

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 22, 2014 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Chairman
 Mark Gillespie, Vice Chairperson
 Charles Ray Peterson
 Billy Ray Pait
 Daniel Dowless
 G. Michael Cogdell
 Wayne Edge

Excused: Delilah Blanks
 Russell Priest

Attorney: Leslie Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order. Reverend Larry Hayes, Good News Baptist Church, Bladenboro, NC provided the Invocation, remembering the loss of Dr. Delilah Blanks' daughter and Sheriff Benston's wife, Sherri Benston. County Manager Gregory J. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:
Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless the Board approved the following Consent Items:
 A. Agenda.
 B. Minutes of Special Meeting on March 27, 2014.
 C. Minutes of Regular Meeting on April 7, 2014.
 D. Budget Amendments as follows:

Animal Control

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105200.200	Supplies	7,900.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103260.040	Animal Control Fees	7,900.00	

Increase in fees collected.

Emergency Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105300.740.005	CO-Homeland Security Grant	38,360.75	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	38,300.00	
103230.031	ES-Homeland Security Grant	60.75	

Budget for Homeland Security Grant – Sea Scan HDS Dual Frequency.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1059005905.200	Supplies	7,557.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103330.061	F/S – DHHS	7,557.00	

Additional funds received from state.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1059005987.610	Contracted Services	999.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	999.00	

Moving funds collected from March Madness.

Parks & Recreation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106600.499	Miscellaneous Recreation	4,450.00	
106600.803	Insurance	150.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103660.010	Recreation Fees	4,450.00	
103660.000	Insurance Recreation	150.00	

To pay insurance and purchase cage turf for batting tunnel.

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Parks and Recreation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106600.910	Special Appropriations		3,000.00
106600.740	Capital Outlay	3,870.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103660.000	Recreation Fees	870.00	

To help pay for the cost of the indoor batting cage equipment.

Library

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106700.231	Library Books	50.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	50.00	

Donation from Martha Sheaff in memory of Claire Dickey.

Library

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106700.499	Miscellaneous	4,973.41	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103630.011	Library Grant	4,973.41	

Grant reimbursement.

Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106900.903	To DSS		2,500.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated		2,500.00

Grant reimbursement.

Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106910.882	BOE-Art 40 - 30% Sales Tax		69,345.76
106910.884	BOE-Art 42 - Hold Harmless		37,340.05
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated		106,685.81

County retaining QSCB principal payment for August, requested by Sharon Penny at BOE.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1461006160.501	Duke Energy		2,500.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
143550.080	Fm- General Fund		2,500.00

To obtain 7% Admin Funds for administering the Duke Energy Funds.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1461006160.555	Refunds/Client Repay	100.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143591.010	Client Refund	100.00	

To reimburse a client for NCHC enrollment fee.

Kelly Fire District

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
385338.499	Miscellaneous Expense	10,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
383190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	10,000.00	

Funding necessary for truck repairs.

E. County Attorney Invoices:

Date	Department	Amount
4/02/14	Planning Department	\$ 850.00
4/14/14	Revenue Department	\$ 500.00
	Total	\$ 1,350.00

F. Community Development Block Grant Monthly Performance Status Reports (2) for March, 2014, incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

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- G. The following resolution to be submitted to NC General Assembly for Bladen County to be included in N.C.G.S. 114-111.3, regarding unneeded ambulance requests:



- H. The following resolution to be submitted to NC General Assembly for Bladen County to be included in N.C.G.S. 161-31, regarding tax certification of ad valorem taxes before transfer of properties:



ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

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

Employee	Department	Years of Service
Sharon McKoy-Clark	Social Services	10
Rita Lassiter	Social Services	25
Shannon Pate	Health	20
Marianne Valentiner	Health	5
Matthew Chadwick	Building Inspections	15
Christopher Ellis	Revenue	5
Doncee Ruffin	Register of Deeds	15
Raymond Marlowe	Sheriff's Office	10
Gary Purdie	Sheriff's Office	15
Madison Dennis	Sheriff's Office	20
Sonya Heustess	Sheriff's Office	20

- B. The meeting was briefly recessed at 6:35pm for a reception in honor of the recognized employees.

Chairman Smith reconvened the meeting at 6:45pm.

ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one in attendance wished to address the Board.

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

- A. Mrs. Coleman provided an overview of the financial status for the nine-month period ending March 31, 2014.

ITEM 6. Sheriff's Office: (Prentis Benston, Sheriff)

A. In Sheriff Benston's absence, Captain Jeff Singletary introduced Dan Mace and Todd Davis of Moseley Architects to provide findings of the recent Jail Feasibility Study.

Mr. Davis reviewed a statistical analysis of historical jail data, including, but not limited to, confinement rates, average daily population, average length of stays and projected population from NC State office of Budget management.

Bladen County's population has been static and projections continue that trend with 35,521 projected in 2033. Average daily population of the current jail facility has increased from 99 detainees in 2009, to 122 for 2013. Historical admissions have, however, dropped from 2,272 in 2009, to 1,929 for 2013. This is indicative of increasing the number of days incarcerated per detainee.

Mr. Mace presented two potential plans for a new jail facility, one being a 183 bed facility at an estimated cost of \$17,525,083, the other, a 147 bed facility at an estimated cost of \$14,396,937. These costs do include all technology, fixtures, furnishings and equipment. However, they do not include property acquisition costs.

Two different locations were discussed as well. The first being the former White Lake prison camp which was recently closed. The other location discussed was county property along Smith Circle.

Mr. Mace and Mr. Davis both commended the Jail Study Committee for their input, hard work and dedication to the process of completing the study.

Chairman Smith expressed appreciation to Mr. Mace and Mr. Davis for the presentation.

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

A. Mr. Harrelson provided an overview of the county health rankings recently published by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Bladen County, ranked 91, an improvement of seven slots from the prior ranking. Mr. Harrelson stated that he is pleased by the improvement, but there is more that the county can do. He shared his comparison to other counties in close proximity. Two counties with much higher rankings, New Hanover (#10) and Brunswick (#34), have a much larger revenue stream to assist with additional education possibilities and more activities.

Mr. Harrelson also reviewed some of the criteria which aid in the rankings process. Length of life, quality of life, health behaviors, available clinical care, social and economic factors and physical environment are all considered by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in compiling the rankings.

Mr. Harrelson stated that through partnerships with local health providers, other county agencies, state agencies, private companies, foundations and committees, and the Board of Education, there is an emphasis on ongoing education for healthier living. He also addressed each of the criteria identified by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the steps being taken for a healthier, more highly educated Bladen County.

B. Mr. Harrelson provided a brief overview of a fee increase recommended by the Health Advisory Board regarding Antibody Blood Grouping and RH Typing Lab services for Maternity clinic. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously approved the fee increase, with a recommendation to request the hospital's quote for the subject test.

ITEM 8. General Services: (Robert Mazur, Director)

A. Mr. Mazur provided a brief overview of a service agreement with Electronic Recyclers International, Inc. He stated that the current vendor charges Bladen County for pickup of discarded computer equipment and televisions, commonly referred to as "e-waste". ERI will provide pickup and disposal at no charge and meets requirements of the State for Bladen County to continue to be eligible to apply for grant funds to assist with budgetary issues.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board unanimously approved a service agreement with Electronic Recyclers International, Inc. for the pickup and disposal of "e-waste".

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- B. Mr. Mazur presented a request for an additional part-time position in solid waste through June 30, 2014 to assist in alleviating the loss of available inmate labor. During the presentation, Mr. Mazur revised his request from part-time to a seasonal position to meet requirements of the Affordable Care Act, which will allow seasonal personnel to work a full work week for a limited period of time.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously approved the hiring of a seasonal employee in Solid Waste through June 30, 2014.

ITEM 9. Advisory Board Appointments

A. Bladenboro Rural Fire District Committee (3)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board, waiving the policy on term limits, unanimously reappointed Charles Wiggins and Greg Lennon to serve three year terms, and reappointed Johnas Freeman to serve an additional three-year term, with expiration dates of April 4, 2017.

B. Keep Bladen Beautiful (1)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board unanimously appointed Amy Bernhardt to fill Bruce Barbour's unexpired term, with an expiration date of March 31, 2017.

C. Juvenile Crime Prevention Committee (1)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board tabled the appointment to a future meeting.

D. Bladen County Planning Board (1)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board tabled the appointment to a future meeting.

E. Bladen County Zoning Board of Adjustments (1)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board tabled the appointment to a future meeting.

F. White Lake Rural Fire District Committee (2)

A motion to reappoint was made by Commissioner Edge, and seconded by Commissioner Gillespie. During discussion, a substitute motion was made by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie to table appointments to a future meeting.

ITEM 10. County Manager: Greg Martin

- A. Mr. Martin presented a proposed Facilities Use Request Form. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously approved the Facilities Use Request form.

- B. Mr. Martin presented a proposed Funding Policy Regarding Non-Profit Organizations. Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board unanimously approved the proposed Funding Policy regarding Non-Profit Organizations.

- C. Mr. Martin provided a brief overview related to a proposed Summer Internship proposal. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously approved the proposed Summer Internship program.

- D. Mr. Martin provided a brief overview of the Bladen County Schools Public School Building Capital Fund Application related to a roofing project for the front building at East Arcadia Elementary School. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved the Public School Building Capital Fund application as submitted.

- F. Mr. Martin reviewed the calendars for April and May, 2014.

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Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board scheduled a Special Meeting related to the FY 2015 Budget for Monday, May 12, at 5pm.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved a budget amendment regarding vehicle repairs for the Kelly Fire Department. The budget amendment is included above in Item 2D of the Consent Agenda.

ITEM 11. A. Consider Entering Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel.

Chairman Smith recognized County Attorney Leslie Johnson regarding a personnel issue. Mr. Johnson stated that the Personnel Committee had heard an appeal and upheld agency management's termination of Ms. LaMaster. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously accepted the decision of the Personnel Committee in the Kathy LaMaster case of April 2, 2014, and that there will be no further appeal from this determination.

The Board did not enter Closed Session.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

James G. Smith, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board