

May 12, 2014

A special meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, May 12, 2014 at 5:00 pm in the Commissioners Room, Lower Level, Bladen County Courthouse, 106 East Broad Street, Elizabethtown, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to receive information regarding the Budget for FY 2014-2015.

Members present:

James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Chairman

Mark Gillespie, Vice Chairman

Charles Ray Peterson

Delilah Blanks

G. Michael Cogdell

Billy Ray Pait

Daniel Dowless

Wayne Edge

Russell Priest

ITEM 1. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and provided the Invocation.

ITEM 2. Mr. Martin provided an overview of the budget process thus far. Historical information was reviewed, including the FY 2012-2013 Audited Fund Balance information. Also presented for information was the FY 2013-2014 Budget projections, Issues on the horizon, and FY 2014-2015 challenges.

Mr. Martin reviewed a number of issues, as follows:

1. Revaluation, effective January 1, 2015
2. Healthcare services:
 - a. EMS
 - b. Health (CAP and Home Health)
3. Concern regarding changes at DuPont
4. Jail facility needs
5. School capital needs

Mr. Martin also discussed the FY 2014-2015 challenges as far as the necessity of budgeting substantially higher revenues and requiring Fund Balance appropriation for EMS and Health Department services.

Historical information related to school funding was presented from the past three years. Increases in employee compensation and benefits will also have an impact on the upcoming fiscal year. The state health plan will be included with a 5% increase in the next calendar year. However, retirement system contributions will remain the same for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Martin stated that the Water District may need to consider rate increases for FY 2015-2016.

Also mentioned were requests from Hickory Grove Fire District and Clarkton Fire District for rate increases of one (1) cent each. Should the rate increases be approved, Hickory Grove Fire District would increase from \$0.07 to \$0.08 and Clarkton from \$0.05 to \$0.06.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

James G. Smith, Chairman

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board