

**May 19, 2014**

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 19, 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  
 Delilah Blanks

Excused: Russell Priest

Attorney: Allen 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. County Manager Gregory J. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 2. Consent Items:**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Pait the Board approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of Special Meeting on May 12, 2014.
- C. Minutes of Regular Meeting on May 12, 2014.
- D. Budget Amendments as follows:

**Health**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
<b>1059005920.200</b>	Supplies	5,386.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103530.090</b>	DHHS-Family Planning	5,386.00	

Additional Grant received from State.

**Parks & Recreation**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
<b>106600.740</b>	Capital Outlay - Equipment	5,036.00	
<b>106800.450</b>	Insurance & Bonds		5,036.00

Funding needed for two batting cages for softball.

**Library**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
<b>106700.499</b>	Miscellaneous	820.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.010</b>	Miscellaneous Revenue	820.00	

Donation from Community Foundation of the New River Valley in memory of Roy and Vivian David

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
<b>1461006160.535</b>	Medicaid	2,765.36	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>143591.010</b>	Client Refund	2,765.36	

EPICS drafts for November 2013 thru March 2014.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
<b>1461006160.571</b>	Caring for Kids	500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>143531.344</b>	Caring for Kids	500.00	

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter allocation for Caring for Kids.

**E. County Attorney Invoice:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>
5/13/14	General Services	\$ 1,950.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,950.00</b>

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- F. Tax Releases and Refunds No. 4-14, incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.
- G. Professional Service Agreement with Bladen Healthcare, LLC d/b/a Cape Fear Valley for Tuberculosis X-Ray Services.
- H. Professional Service Agreement with Bladen Healthcare, LLC d/b/a Cape Fear Valley for Back-Up Services
- I. Professional Services Agreement with Bladen Healthcare, LLC d/b/a Cape Fear Valley for Prenatal and Post-Partum Services.
- J. Pharmacy Services Agreement for FY 2014-2015 with Local Pharmacist, Dickerson's Pharmacy.
- K. Spanish/English Interpreter Agreement with Olga Bauer
- L. Agreement with Bladen County Schools Related to the Health Program.
- M. Agreement with East Coast Migrant Head Start Program.
- N. Community Development Block Grant Monthly Performance Status Reports (2) for April, 2014, incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

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

Commissioner Peterson presented a request to the Board to consider asking the NC General Assembly for authority to increase county sales and use tax without an advisory referendum. After discussion, upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson to ask County Manager Greg Martin to prepare correspondence to request assistance of the County's legislative delegation to authorize Bladen County to increase the county's sales and use tax, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board approved the motion, by a vote of six (6) AYES (Smith, Gillespie, Peterson, Dowless, Pait and Edge) to two (2) NOES (Blanks, Cogdell).

Commissioner Peterson also brought a request from the Bladen Baptist Men's Association to waive solid waste disposal fees for a family in the Bladenboro area. The family recently lost a child, and their home, being in poor repair, required extensive renovations. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously approved the waiver of solid waste fees of approximately \$215 for the Thompson family.

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

Bladen County Woodmen of the World, represented by Trey Duncan, along with representatives of the Clarkton Chapter #262, Wanda Burch, President; Margaret Pope, Secretary; and Myrtle Page, Trustee, wished to donate two wheelchairs for use in the Courthouse. Chairman Smith accepted the kind and much needed donation with many thanks from the entire Board.

**ITEM 5. Bladen County Schools: Mrs. Sharon Penny, Finance Officer**

- A. Representing Bladen County Schools, Mrs. Penny presented a request to transfer funds in the amount of \$350,000 from the Capital Outlay Fund to the Current Expense Fund. Mrs. Penny stated State funding was reduced by the same amount for this fiscal year based on a reduction in student enrollment. The State was unable to notify the School system until mid-March of the reduction due to issues with a new information management system. Mrs. Penny stated that the request was being made as a contingency, and if approved, the funds would be transferred only if needed. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously approved the transfer of \$350,000 from the School's Capital Outlay Fund to the Current Expense Fund.

**ITEM 6. Finance Department: (Lisa Coleman, Finance Officer)**

- A. Mrs. Lisa Coleman reviewed the Financial Dashboard for the 10-month period ending April 30, 2014.
- B. Mrs. Lisa Coleman requested the Board's consideration of closing out Fund 13-Modified Self-Insured Workers Compensation Fund. Mrs. Coleman reminded the Board that several years ago, the County participated in a hybrid self-insured fund for workers compensation insurance. Since February 2011, there have been no claims processed or paid. Mrs. Coleman stated that the fund balance of \$99,830.43 has been identified to assist with

Public Safety needs in the FY 2014-2015 budget. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board unanimously approved the closeout of Fund 13 effective July 1, 2014.

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

- A. Mr. Chris Ellis asked for the Board's consideration of outsourcing the processing and mailing of business and personal property listing forms, yearly tax notices, and second notices. Currently, the Tax office processes all at an annual cost of approximately \$33,700. After receiving three quotes, Mr. Ellis recommended contracting with DGW Business Forms and Systems in Wilmington, at a cost savings of approximately \$4,700. The Tax office currently purchases forms, tax notices and envelopes from DGW and has a good working relationship with Mr. Wood. Upon a motion by Commissioner Blanks, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board unanimously approved to outsource departmental listing forms and tax notices to DGW Business Forms and Systems.

Mr. Ellis also shared that the bulk of the cost savings would be generated from postage. The bulk postage charge paid by the Tax office is .46 per piece of mail and Mr. Wood's rate is .39 per piece of mail. The Tax office is currently unable to consolidate multiple property tax bills to the same property owner. DGW would be able to mail one tax bill for up to ten (10) properties.

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

- A. Due to recent reversals in the Medicaid presumptive eligibility requirements, the current pregnancy test fee of \$25 is now detrimental to the Maternal Health Program. Mr. Harrelson shared that by eliminating the pregnancy test fee, it may encourage potential clients to enroll and participate in, and receive, vital prenatal care. Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Blanks, the Board unanimously agreed to eliminate the pregnancy fee of \$25.

**ITEM 9. Advisory Board Appointments**

**A. Juvenile Crime Prevention Committee (1):**

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

**B. Bladen County Planning Board (1):**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously appointed Jeffrey S. Smith to Aaron Cox's unexpired term with term expiration date of June 30, 2017.

**C. Bladen County Zoning Board of Adjustment (1):**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously appointed Jeffrey S. Smith to Aaron Cox's unexpired term with term expiration date of June 30, 2017.

**D. Dublin Fire District Committee (3):**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously reappointed Dennis Troy, Jason Britt and Thomas Grimes with term expiration dates of May 19, 2017.

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

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed the Board calendars for May and June, 2014.
- B. Mr. Martin provided an overview regarding an application for an engineering study related to a Rock Arch Ramp Fishway at Lock and Dam #2 in the Cape Fear River. Bladen County would be the lead applicant, partnering with organizations including Dial Cordy and Associates, Cape Fear River Watch and Moffatt and Nichols Engineers. Bladen County would have no financial liability for any of the engineering study.
- C. Mr. Martin presented a Resolution in Support of an Engineering Study related to a Rock Arch Ramp Fishway at Lock and Dam #2 in the Cape Fear River for consideration. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved the application as presented in item 10B and adopted a Resolution in support of an engineering

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study related to a Rock Arch Ramp Fishway at Lock and Dam #2 in the Cape Fear River.

- D. Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board scheduled a Public Hearing for Monday, June 2, 2014 at 6:30pm regarding the FY 2014-2015 Budget.
- E. Review of the FY 2014-2015 Proposed Budget was tabled until later in the meeting.
- F. Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board scheduled a Special Meeting, for June 2, 2014 at 5pm, regarding the FY 2014-2015 Budget.
- G. The Board viewed a brief video produced by NCACC related to the latest legislative update, information about the Annual Conference, County Assembly Day and a report on legal cases impacting counties.

Chairman Smith recognized Reverend Larry Hayes. Mr. Hayes invited everyone to the Juvenile Crime Prevention Committee (JCPC) annual luncheon on June 5, 2014 at noon, to be held at the Extension building on Smith Circle.

Chairman Smith also recognized that it is EMS Week and asked everyone to please be mindful of our County staff in EMS and the challenging job they have.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the meeting was recessed at 7:05pm until Tuesday, May 20, at 6pm to discuss the proposed FY 2014-2015 Budget.

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James G. Smith, Chairman  
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board