

August 3, 2015

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, August 3, 2015 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

- Charles Ray Peterson, Chairman
- Russell Priest, Vice Chairman
- Billy Ray Pait
- G. Michael Cogdell
- Dr. Delilah Blanks
- Daniel Dowless
- Wayne Edge
- James G. "Jimmie" Smith
- Arthur Bullock

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm
 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, with the deletion of item 5A, Receive a Request from Bladen County Schools
- B. Minutes of Regular Meeting July 20, 2015.
- C. Budget Amendments as follows:

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105900.499.044	NCPHF-CQI	2,700.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.171	NCPHF-CQI	2,700.00	

Funding for Quality Improvement Project.

JCPC Supportive Services for Students and Parents

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106805.647	Supportive Services for Students & Parents	34,751.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103230.026	JCPC-Supportive Services for S&P	34,751.00	

JCPC Supportive Services for Students and Parents approved budget for 2015-2016.

JCPC Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106806.200	Supplies and Materials	1,500.00	
106806.220	Food and Provisions	2,500.00	
106806.270	Advertising	750.00	
106806.310	Travel	500.00	
106806.395	Schools and Meetings	2,000.00	
106806.499	Miscellaneous Expense	2,574.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103230.023	JCPC Administration	9,824.00	

Additional JCPC Administration approved budget for 2015-2016.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.545	Federal Adoption Incentive	8,241.78	
146100.6160.571	Caring for Kids - Foster Care	287.14	
146100.6160.650.001	Foster Care Donations	65.05	
146100.6160.650.003	Adult Abuse Awareness	256.16	
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness	1,430.68	
146100.6160.499.041	Carseat Donations	65.00	
146100.6160.499.050	Memorials	100.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143550.080	Fm General Fund	10,445.81	

Rollover budgets for DSS.

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D. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
7/21/15	Register of Deeds	\$ 610.00
7/21/15	Sheriff's Office	\$ 560.00
7/23/15	Health Department	\$ 510.00
7/24/15	Health Department	\$ 310.00
	Total	\$ 1,990.00

E. Schedule a Public Hearing for August 17, 2015 to Receive Comments Regarding a Rezoning Request.

ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

Commissioner Bullock was recognized and requested the Board to consider reassigning a QRV (Quick Response Vehicle) to EMT-Paramedic Heather Ellis. Commissioner Bullock stated that Ms. Ellis had used her personal vehicle on numerous occasions to travel to the EMS building to dispense medication. Following discussion, Chairman Peterson asked County Manager Greg Martin to research the reassignment of the QRV and present information at a future meeting.

Commissioner Bullock also stated that the Elizabethtown Rescue Squad is in the process of selling a heavy duty crash truck and wanted to allow the County first option to purchase the vehicle. Mr. Martin was asked to research and present information at a future meeting.

- A. Chairman Peterson recognized Warren Holder upon his retirement from the Sheriff's Office. A plaque of recognition and appreciation was presented to Mr. Holder, along with his service side arm.
- B. Chairman Peterson and County Manager Greg Martin provided updates regarding proposed Sales Tax Legislation (Revised House Bill 117). Chairman Peterson attended a recent press conference held by Senator Harry Brown regarding proposed legislation which would benefit rural counties. Chairman Peterson stated that Governor McCrory does not support Revised House Bill 117.
- C. Upon a motion by Commissioner Blanks, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously adopted the following Resolution in Support of Revised House Bill 117:



Clerk Maria Edwards was directed to notify Bladen County's legislative delegation of the Board of Commissioners' support by sending an electronic copy of the adopted Resolution.

ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

- A. NC Department of Transportation Engineer Phil Geary provided an update regarding the Bladen County Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Southeastern Region Supervisor James Upchurch was also in attendance and provided additional information. Commissioner Blanks asked Mr. Upchurch and Mr. Geary about the project to widen Hwy. 87 from Elizabethtown to the Columbus County line. Mr. Geary stated that according to studies, that Hwy. 87 was not overcapacity. However, a project to widen Hwy. 87 will be presented for inclusion in the plan. Inclusion of a project will not guarantee that it will be funded, but may be part of future plans.

ITEM 5. Bladen County Schools: (Dr. Robert Taylor, Superintendent)

- A. This item was deleted upon approval of the revised Agenda (see item 2A).

ITEM 6. Health and Human Services Agency: (Cris Harrelson, Director)

- A. Bladen County Health Department, Health Educators, Carol Strickland and Marianne Valentiner presented to the Bladen County Board of Commissioners (BBOC), the 2014 *State of the County Health Report* (SOTCH). Copies of the 2014 SOTCH were provided to the members present. Bladen County Health Department is required to complete a SOTCH in the interim years after the completion of the *Community Health Assessment* (CHA). The CHA was completed in 2013, the interim years for the SOTCH are 2014 and 2015, and the next CHA will be due by May 30, 2016 in partnership with the Cape Fear Valley/Bladen County Hospital. The CHA and SOTCH address accreditation standards 1.1 and 1.2 and are vital components of the accreditation of the Health Department and is tied directly to the County's State funding. The CHA is a requirement of the local hospital and has to be addressed on their IRS form and is a requirement to be done every 3 years in partnership with Public Health.

The CHA is used as an indicator, or snap-shot, of the county's health concerns and health priorities that need to be addressed. The 2013 CHA surveyed 568 individuals in the county and priorities identified based on the surveys were: Heart Disease, Cancer, Respiratory Disease, Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries, Diabetes, and Substance Abuse (Prescription over the counter use/misuse of drugs). Indicators were also taken from the NC Center for State Health Statistics and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Identified health issues are recognized and are addressed by collaborative partners in actions plans and based on the Governors 2020 Health Objectives from the Department of Health and Human Services. Action Plans are completed based on the results of the 2013 CHA. The Action Plans guide the collaborative in projects that will be conducted throughout the county to combat and address the health concerns identified and are listed in the 2014 SOTCH. The SOTCH is a follow-up to the CHA. The health department addresses the identified priorities and addresses them in the Bladen County Health Department Strategic Plan. The Actions Plans and the Strategic Plans are updated annually as programming is completed that address the priorities and objectives in the plans.

Carol Strickland introduced the 2014 State of the County Health report (SOTCH) to the Board of County Commissioners. The Accreditation checklist requires that the demographics of the county are in the document; Page 1 of the 2014 SOTCH discusses demographics; according to the US Census Bureau Quick facts the Bladen County estimated 2013 estimated population was 34,843, with 24.4% persons below poverty. Page 2 of the document identifies the Collaborative members list that have participated in the creation of the 2014 SOTCH and programming supporting identified issues. Page 3 lists priorities that were identified in the 2013 CHA and will be addressed in the 2013-16 Action Plans and 2013-16 Strategic Plans. A page 4-6 graph identified priorities and analyzes comparison of data. Heart Disease has decreased since the 2013 CHA, and but remains the #1 leading cause of death in Bladen, 2007-11 data Bladen 259.1, NC 179.3, compared to the 2008-12 data Bladen 243.8, NC 174.4. The #2 cause of death in Bladen is cancer; it has also decreased since 2013 CHA data. The #3 cause of death in Bladen is Cerebrovascular Disease. Bladen's rates remain higher than the NC states rates but there has been a decrease since the 2013 CHA from 61.5 to 56.8. Hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol levels and smoking are risk factors that lead to cerebrovascular disease.

Marianne Valentiner reviewed the #4 cause of death in Bladen, Respiratory Disease. The Collaborative established an Asthma Coalition in January of 2014 which meets quarterly as a result of the increase in Asthma hospitalization. Also to address this issue the Bladen County Commissioners approved a revision of the smoking/tobacco use ordinance on October 20, 2014 to prohibit smoking and the use of other tobacco and vapor products in county buildings and vehicles, and all county grounds.

The #5 cause of death was Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injury deaths. This was a new and emerging issue in the county. As a result, the health department partners with the Bladen County Highway incident management inter-agency teams to help promote safe driving and communicate their

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information throughout the county. Since changes have been made on the Hwy 87 bypass and on Hwy 41 a study reveals that the percentages of deaths have greatly decreased. The #6 cause of death in Bladen is diabetes. The health department continues to offer the free diabetes Education and Support Group class monthly here at the health department.

Marianne Valentiner then reviewed the programs created to address health priorities that were identified in the 2013 CHA. The 2014 SOTCH lists each program and the progress of the program and the grant funding that has been received to the county in 2013-14 that made the programming possible. New and emerging issues identified in the CHA were: Asthma and Unintentional Motor Vehicle Deaths.

The SOTCH is due in the interim of each year by March and the CHA is due by May 30, 2016. A hardcopy and electronic copy are sent to the NC Department of Health and Human Services office and are reviewed based on the accreditation checklist approval letters are then sent and are filed in the accreditation Standard 1.1 or 1.2. Documents are required to be presented to two (2) stakeholders and to the general public. The CHA and the SOTCH are available to the public at the health department, local libraries, NC Cooperative Extension, Cape Fear Valley/Bladen County Hospital, and Bladen Community College. The CHA and the SOTCH are also available on our Bladen County Website. Marianne Valentiner asked the Board if there were any comments or questions. Commissioner Bullock asked about a program regarding weight loss. Ms. Valentiner stated she felt Commissioner Bullock was asking about "Weigh Less, Eat Smart and Move More".

- B. Britt Huggins and Kayla Brienne provided an overview of the Young Families Connect program. Mr. Huggins stated that Bladen was one of five counties in North Carolina to provide this program. The program is designed to assist both expectant and/or parenting men and women ages 13-24 years old. Supportive services include 1) increasing self-sufficiency; 2) improve health and wellness; and 3) improve parenting skills.
Ms. Brienne shared that there are also five (5) local vendors who are contracted to provide services to 111 participants. Currently, there are fifty-nine (59) individuals enrolled. The enrollment process may take up to approximately thirty (30) days.

ITEM 7. Emergency Medical Services: (David Howell, Chief)

- A. Mr. Howell provided supporting information regarding his request to reclassify a vacant EMT-Intermediate position to an EMT-Paramedic position. Mr. Howell stated an additional EMT-Paramedic would be able to provide more advanced lifesaving treatment at a minimal cost. Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board unanimously approved the reclassification of a vacant EMT-Intermediate position to an EMT-Paramedic position.
Mr. Howell expressed his appreciation to the Board.

ITEM 8. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration at the August 17, 2015 Board Meeting:

- A. Highway Safety Committee (3)

ITEM 9. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of August and September, 2015.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Priest, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously appointed Commissioner James G. Smith as Voting Delegate for an upcoming NCACC Annual Conference scheduled for August 20-23, 2015.

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ITEM 11. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

No one addressed the Board of Commissioners

ITEM 13. Closed Session:

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Priest, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board entered Closed Session at 7:33 pm in Accordance with NCGS 143.318.11(a)(6) Personnel.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board exited Closed Session at 8:45 pm.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Board unanimously approved a restructure plan for the Home Health program.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously approved the mailing of correspondence to Tax Administrator Chris Ellis and scheduled a Special Meeting regarding Personnel Issues for 12:00 pm on Monday, August 17, 2015.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Edge the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners