

February 20, 2018

A Planning Session of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 4:00 pm in the Bladen County Health Department Conference Room, 300 Mercer Mill Road, Elizabethtown, NC.

Members present were:

Ray Britt, Chairman

Michael Cogdell (arrived at 4:15pm; departed at 5:49pm)

Charles R. Peterson

Daniel Dowless (departed at 5:49pm)

Arthur Bullock (departed at 5:17pm)

Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins (arrived at 4:35pm)

Excused:

David Gooden

Russell Priest

Ashley Trivette

ITEM 1. Call to Order:

Chairman Britt called the meeting to order. Commissioner Peterson provided an invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Accomplishments and Review: (Greg Martin, County Manager)

- A. Mr. Martin provided an overview of several identified potential projects for Board feedback. Department Managers were invited to address the Board regarding specific potential projects.

Sheriff McVicker provided information to the Board regarding a proposed driver training facility which could be located adjacent to the current Bladen County Emergency Training Center. He stated that the state owns property which could be developed for construction of a driving pad. Sheriff McVicker stated that he had already discussed with Bladen Community College representatives benefits a driver training facility could provide for the area. Sheriff McVicker said that the pad could be used for tractor-trailer training as well. Research is being done to locate grant opportunities, including but not limited to Economic Development Administration, Golden LEAF, and Kate B. Reynolds Foundation.

General Services Manager Kip McClary provided information regarding a proposed roadside trash pick-up crew. He stated that inmates in the misdemeanor program could be used to provide this service. More information will be forthcoming. Sheriff McVicker also supports this beneficial program.

Planning Director Greg Elkins provided information to the Board regarding a potential Abandoned Structure Ordinance. Mr. Elkins shared information regarding surrounding counties' ordinances and how ordinances are being enforced. Health and Human Services Agency Interim Director Wayne Raynor shared that the Health Department could assist with developing an ordinance and enforcement if the dwelling is considered an "imminent hazard". Mr. Elkins stated that he would continue researching the topic and would share additional information with the Board.

Computer Operations Manager Robin Hewett inquired of the Board regarding video recording of Board meetings and posting them on a Bladen County YouTube channel. He stated that there are still some video quality issues. The Board indicated their approval of the process as it has been conducted.

Mr. Martin briefly reviewed Time and Attendance/Time Clock programs which the County has been researching. A webinar has been scheduled to

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receive more information. The Board indicated their willingness to consider the purchase and implementation of a Time and Attendance/Time Clock program for all employees.

Mr. Martin provided an overview of potentially contracting with a third-party benefits broker to more efficiently and seamlessly present employees with an opportunity to enroll in volunteer insurance opportunities. A program like this would greatly benefit employees, and the Human Resources Department. Following discussion, the Board indicated its interest in generating a Request for Proposals for a Third-Party Benefits Broker.

Mr. Martin touched on a possible Bladen County Schools' Capital Project related to school consolidation. He stated that he had not received any correspondence or information regarding specific needs.

Mr. Martin continued the meeting by reviewing a number of identified Community Issues; GenX, the Opioid crisis, Smithfield hog farm lawsuit, White Lake water discoloration. Mr. Martin also reminded the Board of an upcoming Dementia Friendly Kick-Off meeting scheduled for 1pm on Tuesday, February 27. The meeting is scheduled to be held in the auditorium on the campus of Bladen Community College.

ITEM 3. Discussion and Direction: (Jean Klein, Lumber River Council of Governments)

- A. Mr. Martin introduced Jean Klein to facilitate the balance of the meeting. Ms. Klein expressed appreciation to the Board. Discussion regarding other perceived threats and opportunities ensued. Ms. Klein also revisited a recent attempt at updating a "Bring on Bladen" strategic plan. An attempt was in process shortly before Hurricane Matthew affected the area and the process suffered due to emergent issues. The Board indicated willingness and interest in revamping a strategic planning committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm by acclamation.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Ray Britt, Chairman