

**March 27, 2018**

A Planning Session of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 4:00 pm in the Commissioner's Room on the lower level of the Courthouse, 106 East Broad Street, Elizabethtown, NC.

Members present were:

Ray Britt, Chairman  
Charles R. Peterson (arrived at 4:15pm)  
Michael Cogdell (arrived at 4:17pm)  
Daniel Dowless  
Arthur Bullock  
Dr. Ophelia Munn-Goins  
Ashley Trivette (departed at 5:45pm)  
David Gooden (arrived at 4:19pm)

Excused:

Russell Priest

**ITEM 1. Call to Order:**

Chairman Britt called the meeting to order at 4:12pm. Chairman Britt provided an invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 2. Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Information and Discussion**

A. Mr. Martin provided a power point presentation regarding preliminary FY 2019 Budget information. He reviewed FY 2017 audited Fund Balance information, FY 2018 year end projection and FY 2019 requests. Mr. Martin stated that additional personnel positions have been requested. He also stated that requests have not yet been received from Bladen County Schools or Bladen Community College.

Mr. Martin recognized General Services Director Kip McClary to address the Board regarding unforeseen expenses involved in the operation and maintenance of the Detention and Law Enforcement Center. Mr. McClary provided an overview of a number of building systems which require service and maintenance agreements to run efficiently and effectively. Those discussed were HVAC systems maintenance, surveillance system, building management, and fire protection. Mr. McClary stated that equipment was provided through the construction project.

Sheriff Jim McVicker and Captain Jeff Singletary provided information regarding the Misdemeanant program. Sheriff McVicker stated that currently Bladen County has designated up to forty (40) beds per day for misdemeanants for \$40 per day. The misdemeanant population is currently 25 inmates. He stated that if the need arose, he could designate additional beds for the program. He also stated that if an inmate is included in the program, a reduction of 4 days per month worked would be credited to the inmate's time served. He shared that the Jail Diversion program has somewhat reduced the jail population. Sheriff McVicker shared that there are three (3) inmates in "safe keeping" facilities outside of the County. However, Bladen County is still financially responsible for their medical expenses, meal expenses, etc.

Captain Singletary provided a brief history of pagers for fire departments, law enforcement, and emergency medical services. A request is included for \$100,000 to provide infrastructure for alpha paging throughout the county. He stated that alpha paging is a one-way communication to provide alerts to various emergency services. He stated that pricing for alpha paging hardware has significantly decreased.

Mr. Martin briefly reviewed additional items for information, including, but not limited to:

- Parks & Recreation Community Grant Program
- Additional Personnel Requests
- Tax Administration foreclosures and legal services

**March 27, 2018**

- Tax Administration Business Personal Property auditing services
- Capital and Non-Inventorable Expenditure Requests by Department
- Historical Review of School Funding, including Charter Schools
- Article 44 Sales Tax Expansion, to be allocated to Education and/or Economic Development
- Employee Compensation, including estimated increases in health insurance premiums, and Retirement System Contribution increases
- Fire District requests for tax increases

**ITEM 3. Discussion:**

Following a brief discussion, the Board indicated its willingness to review the provided information and consider scheduling a future meeting to further discuss FY 2018-19 Budget process.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gooden, the meeting as adjourned at 5:49pm.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ray Britt, Chairman