

October 14, 2014

A special meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 12:00pm regarding Courthouse Security options and other related topics.

Members present:

Chairman James G. Smith

Mark Gillespie, Vice Chairman

Charles Ray Peterson

Dr. Delilah Blanks, arrived 12:03pm

Daniel Dowless

Billy Ray Pait

Wayne Edge

Excused: Russell Priest
 G. Michael Cogdell

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and provided an invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Blanks entered the meeting.

ITEM 1. Captain Jeff Singletary, Sheriff's Office

Captain Singletary shared a Power Point presentation regarding courthouse security, including prior years' efforts to increase security. A recommendation by a Courthouse Security Committee included the securing of the two side doors (Poplar Street and Courthouse Drive entrances) to emergency exits only, making the front entrance a public access, manned by Deputies, with walk through metal detectors. The rear entrance would be for employee and staff access, as well as a handicapped entrance.

Captain Singletary also presented projected costs associated with the recommended plan, which includes improvements to the facility and entrances, an additional full-time Deputy Sheriff, and security screening equipment. Of the approximate \$93,000 to fund the recommended plan, there would be \$65,000 in recurring expenses to fund an additional position and possible part-time and/or overtime for the Sheriff's office.

Captain Singletary also recommended adopting Ordinances for Courthouse Security to more easily enforce the proposed policies, and for prohibiting deadly weapons in County facilities. Also a regular review of Courthouse security operations for unseen and/or unexpected needs would be recommended.

Following discussion of the recommended plan as presented, it was the consensus of the Board to review other options at the upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting, scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2014.

Chairman Smith voiced his concern of citizens and employees having to enter the Courthouse through individuals who are smoking in close proximity of entrances around the Courthouse. General Services Director Robert Mazur, who was attending the meeting, shared that a proposed No Smoking Ordinance was adopted several years ago which could be revisited and presented at an upcoming Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:37pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk

James G. Smith, Chairman