

May 20, 2014

A special meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 6:00 pm regarding FY 2014-2015 Budget.

Members present were:

James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Chairman

Mark Gillespie, Vice-Chairman

Delilah Blanks

Billy Ray Pait

Charles Peterson

Daniel Dowless

Russell Priest

Michael Cogdell

Excused: Wayne Edge

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and provided an invocation.

County Manager Greg Martin presented a power point presentation regarding the FY 2015 Proposed Budget.

Mr. Martin identified several challenges for the upcoming budget, including;

- Dependence on fund balance for EMS and Health, which places significant constraints on the budget
- Jail operating expenses continue to escalate, with substantial increase for inmate rent
- Maximized revenue projections for property and sales taxes provide little margin.

Mr. Martin highlighted some of the expected increases in expenditures. Specifically, he identified a projected increase of 5% in insurance premiums, beginning in January 2015. There are several capital items for consideration, which include renovations to facilities and sidewalks in the Operations department; patrol vehicles and computer upgrades for the Sheriff's Office, and new hand-held radios, mobile computers and medical equipment for EMS.

Proposed current expense funding for both Bladen Community College and Bladen County Schools would maintain the level of funding as the current year (FY 2013-2014).

Bladen County Water District rates and Solid Waste fees will see no increase. However, water rates will need to be reviewed in the upcoming year. Solid Waste fees have maintained current rates for fifteen years.

Fire District tax rates were also discussed. Two of the eighteen districts, Clarkton and Hickory Grove, have requested consideration for a rate increase of one-cent per \$100 in property value.

In summary, Mr. Martin stated that an appropriation from Fund Balance would be required in the FY 2014-2015 Proposed Budget, based on health and public safety needs.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Blanks, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

James G. Smith, Chairman

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board