

June 12, 2013

A special meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 5:00 pm regarding the FY 2013-2014 Budget.

Members present were:

James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Chairman

Mark Gillespie, Vice-Chairman

Delilah Blanks*

Charles Peterson*

Daniel Dowless

Russell Priest

Michael Cogdell

Wayne Edge

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Priest, and seconded by Commissioner Pait, to authorize the County Manager to hire temporary, part-time staff to assist during position vacancies and when training is necessary to ensure a smooth transition for new employees. The motion was approved by a vote of six AYES (Commissioners Edge, Pait, Dowless, Gillespie, Smith and Priest) to one NO (Commissioner Cogdell).

*Commissioner Blanks arrived at 5:03 p.m.

County Manager Greg Martin reviewed several proposed staff changes to the budget since it was originally presented.

*Commissioner Peterson arrived 5:15 p.m.

Emergency Services Director Bradley Kinlaw and Emergency Medical Services Director Jeanene Green presented power-point slides regarding EMS coverage and call response times for ambulances and the lower response times for quick response vehicles. Commissioner Blanks expressed serious concern regarding long response times and the need for an ambulance to be located in the eastern portion of the county during daytime hours. Mrs. Green informed the Board members that Mr. Joe Fraser, with the NC Pre-Hospital Medical Information System in Chapel Hill, will return to Bladen County to assist in determining recommendations regarding EMS coverage throughout Bladen County.

Upon discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, to continue with the existing EMS coverage at this time, and for staff to report to the Board following the meeting with Mr. Fraser. The motion was approved by a vote of six AYES to three NOES (Commissioners Blanks, Gillespie and Cogdell)

County Manager Greg Martin stated that Bladen Community College received a recent quote of \$24,000.00 for sidewalk repairs. The commissioners agreed to maintain the \$15,000.00 capital appropriation, as proposed, and agreed for it to be used for sidewalk repairs rather than door replacements.

There was discussion regarding funding for the vacant tax clerk position, as requested by Revenue Director Chris Ellis.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cogdell, and seconded by Commissioner Blanks to include funding for a vacant Tax Clerk position. The motion failed by a vote of four AYES (Commissioners Edge, Blanks, Gillespie and Cogdell) to five NOES (Commissioners Priest, Peterson, Smith, Dowless and Pait.)

A motion was made by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Priest, to add a one-time appropriation of \$200,000.00 to Bladen County Schools, for teacher assistants. The motion was approved by a vote of six AYES (Commissioners Cogdell, Priest, Peterson, Edge, Smith and Gillespie) to three NOES (Commissioners Blanks, Dowless and Pait.)

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A motion was made by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, and approved to adjourn at 6:12 p.m.

James G. Smith, Chairman

ATTEST:

Gregory J. Martin, Deputy Clerk