

June 9, 2014

A special meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, June 9, 2014 at 5:00 pm in the Commissioners Room regarding FY 2014-2015 Budget.

Members present were:

James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Chairman

Mark Gillespie, Vice-Chairman

Delilah Blanks

Billy Ray Pait

Daniel Dowless

Russell Priest

Michael Cogdell

Wayne Edge

Excused: Charles Peterson

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

County Manager Greg Martin reviewed several proposed changes to the budget since it was originally presented. The proposed revisions create a net reduction of \$12,582 to the budget.

Mr. Martin provided an overview of the budget requests from the June 2, 2014 meeting, including Bladen Community College, Bladen County Schools, Forestry Service, Board of Elections, Emergency Services (including GIS and Building Inspections) and the Sheriff.

After reviewing and discussing each of the requests, the Board approved to include requests from Forestry for an additional \$17,171; Board of Elections for a part-time position for 1,000 hours and voting equipment in order to comply with state regulations by 2018, for a total of \$177,861; Emergency Services (excluding the plotter for GIS) for an increase of \$40,600; and the Sheriff's Office for two additional patrol vehicles for an increase of \$56,000. Debt service expense was not included in the approved requests. There was further discussion regarding the requests from Bladen Community College and Bladen County Schools.

By consensus, the Board requested a meeting to be scheduled including Mr. Martin, Captain Jeff Singletary and Dr. William Findt to further discuss security on the campus for a more economical plan of action.

Chairman Smith reminded everyone of the scheduled joint meeting between the Board of Commissioners with the Bladen County Board of Education, scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2014 at 4:30pm. He suggested that more detail and a better understanding of Bladen County Schools' budget request could be discussed at that time.

The possibility of considering a new EMS tax to be included along with property tax was discussed to assist in generating revenue to help offset increasing costs associated with EMS. However, a new tax would not be considered in the FY 2014-2015 budget.

County Manager Greg Martin stated that correspondence had been received from Judge Douglas Sasser regarding the county jail. Judge Sasser requested a response with a plan of action. By consensus, the Board requested Mr. Martin to schedule a meeting to include Sheriff Benston, County Attorney Leslie Johnson and the County Manager in order to address the issues and respond to Judge Sasser within his requested deadline.

A motion was made by Commissioner Blanks, seconded by Commissioner Edge, and approved to adjourn at 6:33 p.m.

James G. Smith, Chairman

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board