June 21, 2010

A Special Meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, June 21, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in Room G8 of the Bladen County Courthouse, Elizabethtown, North Carolina. The purpose of the meeting was to review the FY 2011 Proposed Budget.

The following members were present:

Billy Ray Pait, Chairman
Delilah Blanks, Vice-Chairperson
W. D. Neill, Jr.
Daniel Dowless
David Gooden
Albert Beatty
Charles Ray Peterson
Lewis Tatum

Not present: Larry Smith

Chairman Pait called upon County Manager Greg Martin to review revisions to the proposed budget, since it was presented on May 17, 2010.

The Board discussed the appropriation to Bladen County Schools. Superintendent Greg Killingsworth addressed the School System’s request for an additional $500,000.00 in Current Expense and authorization to transfer $1 million from Capital Outlay reserve funds to Current Expense. This will enable the School System to maintain teachers and teacher assistants. A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson and seconded by Delilah Blanks to increase the Current Expense appropriation by $500,000.00 and authorize the transfer of $1 million from Capital Outlay fund balance to Current Expense. The motion was approved by a vote of seven AYES (Pait, Blanks, Peterson, Gooden, Beatty, Dowless, and Neill) to one NO (Lewis Tatum).

Jackie Coleman, Bladenboro Fire Chief and President of the Bladen County Fire Chiefs Association, addressed the Board regarding a need for additional dispatchers in 911 Communications. E-911 Supervisor Alisha Evans provided 911 call history data for the past several years. The time associated with the Emergency Medical Dispatch program was also discussed. A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson to approve four additional dispatcher positions. The motion did not receive a second. A motion was made by Billy R. Pait and seconded by Delilah Blanks to approve two additional dispatcher positions. The vote was approved by a vote of seven AYES (Pait, Blanks, Gooden, Beatty, Dowless, Neill, and Tatum) to one No (Peterson).

County Manager Greg Martin updated the Board regarding concerns with the condition of Emergency Medical Services Quick Response Vehicles. He indicated that staff was inquiring at State Surplus in Raleigh about the opportunity to purchase two vehicles at a reasonable cost. Commissioner Peterson requested an update regarding all EMS vehicles for the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

Upon discussion, Chairman Pait called for a motion to approve the FY 2011 Budget. A motion was made by David Gooden and seconded by Delilah Blanks to approve the FY 2011 Budget Ordinance. Commissioner Tatum expressed concerns about salary increases for three department heads.
He stated that in light of economic conditions and being unable to provide a cost of living adjustment for all employees, he doesn't believe that it is in the best interest of the organization to authorize salary increases for three employees. The motion to approve the following Budget Ordinance was approved by a vote of seven AYES (Pait, Blanks, Gooden, Peterson, Beatty, Dowless, and Neill) to one NO (Tatum).
A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Delilah Blanks, and approved to adjourn at 6:10 p.m.

Billy Ray Pait, Chairman

ATTEST:

Gregory J. Martin, Deputy Clerk