

October 7, 2013

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, October 7, 2013 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

- James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Chairman
- Mark Gillespie, Vice Chairperson
- Charles Ray Peterson
- Delilah Blanks
- Billy Ray Pait
- Russell Priest
- Daniel Dowless
- G. Michael Cogdell
- Wayne Edge

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order. Reverend Larry Hayes, Good News Baptist Church, Bladenboro, NC provided the Invocation. County Manager Gregory J. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:
Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Dowless the Board approved the following Consent Items:
 A. Agenda.
 B. Minutes of Regular Meeting on September 16, 2013.
 C. Budget Amendments as follows:

Planning

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
104220.491	Dues & Subscriptions	500.00	
104220.325	Postage	500.00	
104220.270	Advertising	500.00	
104220.200	Supplies & Materials	500.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103110.001	Zoning/Cell Towers	2,000.00	

Cover fees associated with cell tower public hearing.

Parks and Recreation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106600.803	Insurance	1,345.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103660.000	Recreation Insurance	1,345.00	

To pay for Fall Sports Insurance.

Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106900.903	To DSS	12,099.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	FBA	12,099.00	

Rollover of unspent designated funds.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105900.5910.126	Part-Time Salaries	7,560.00	
105900.5910.181	FICA	590.00	
105900.5910.122	Bonus	150.00	
105900.5910.499.026	Breastfeeding Grant	89.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103530.130	DHHS-WIC	8,389.00	

Additional grant received from State.

Health

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105900.5987.990	Contingency	6,219.08	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	FBA	6,219.08	

Remaining funds from FY 12-13 for CHAP Grant rollover.

DSS

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1461006160.555	Refunds/Client Repay	100.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143591.010	Client Refund	100.00	

To reimburse a client for an NCHC enrollment fee.

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DSS

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1461006160.571	Caring for Kids	358.53	
1461006160.545	Federal Adoption Incentive Fund	11,715.00	
1461006160.499.041	Carseat Donations	25.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143550.080	Fm General Fund	12,099.00	

Rollover of unspent designated funds.

DSS

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
1461006160.571	Caring for Kids	375.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.344	Caring for Kids	375.00	

Quarterly allocation for Caring for Kids.

Solid Waste

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
205800.398	KBB/Community Relations	2,185.71	
<i>Revenues</i>			
203190.050	FBA	2,185.71	

Rollover of unspent designated funds.

Revaluation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
317201.610	Contract Services	304,122.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
313190.050	FBA	304,122.00	

Budget for 2013-2014 Revaluation expenses.

White Oak Fire District

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
405340.499	Miscellaneous Expense	35,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
403190.050	FBA	35,000.00	

Funding for equipment/service truck purchase.

D. County Attorney Invoices:

Date	Department	Amount
9/19/13	Planning Department	\$ 1,535.00
9/24/13	Sheriff's Office	500.00
10/1/13	Retainer Oct-13	300.00
10/2/13	Sheriff's Office	600.00
10/3/13	Parks & Recreation	500.00
10/4/13	Economic Development	550.00
	Total	\$ 3,985.00

E. 2014 Holiday Schedule

F. 2014 Board of Commissioners' Meeting Schedule

G. Employee Appreciation Luncheon for Thursday, November 21, 2013

H. Tax Administration Records Retention Schedule Amendment

I. County Management Records Retention Schedule Amendment

J. Register of Deeds Records Retention Schedule Amendment

K. NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Project Agreement

L. Fireworks Display at Camp Clearwater Pier on October 19, 2013

M. Agreement with Moseley Architects Regarding Detention Center Feasibility Study

N. National 4-H Month Proclamation, as follows:



O. Public Hearing Scheduled for Monday, October 21, 2013 at 6:30pm, to Receive Public Comments Regarding Close-Out of the NC Tomorrow Program.

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ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

- A. Commissioner Peterson asked County Manager Greg Martin to look into the schedule of supplying county water to Districts I and II.

ITEM 4. Individuals / Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners

ITEM 5. Public Hearing to Receive Public Comments Regarding Bladen Area Rural Transit System

- A. Chairman Smith declared the Public Hearing opened and asked the public to offer comments.
Hearing no comments from the public, Chairman Smith declared the Public Hearing closed.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board approved the Rural Operation Assistance Program application as submitted.

ITEM 6. 4-H Program Update (Leighanne Kelly, Bladen County 4-H Council President)

- A. Clerk to the Board Maria Edwards read the National 4-H Week Proclamation aloud for the benefit of the audience. Chairman Smith then presented the Proclamation to Leighanne Kelly and 4-H Youth Development Director Stacie Kinlaw.
- B. Leighanne Kelly presented an overview of Bladen County's 4-H Program, including her attendance at the NCACC Youth Summit in Greensboro held in August. North Carolina 4-H and the NC Cooperative Extension Service partnered for the fourth year with the NCACC on a multi-year initiative to increase youth involvement in county government. This initiative aims to overcome the mindset that many youth are disengaged and lack trust in government. Miss Kelly interviewed County Manager Greg Martin to prepare for the Youth Summit.

ITEM 7. Planning Department (Greg Elkins, Director)

- A. Greg Elkins requested that a Public Hearing be scheduled for October 21, 2013 to hear public comments regarding an amendment to the Bladen County Zoning Ordinance to exempt telecommunications towers from obtaining a special use permit if they are specifically used for emergency communications for county and state emergency personnel. Jeff Singletary, representing the Sheriff's Office, reiterated the need for an abbreviated permitting process.

Bladen County has purchased a tract of land off Bivens Bridge Road for the sole purpose of erecting an emergency communications tower. This tower is crucial to life safety and property conservation for Bladen County's public safety responders and citizens.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board unanimously approved the Public Hearing to be held on October 21, 2013 at 6:30pm.

ITEM 8. Economic Development Commission (Chuck Heustess, Director)

- A. Chuck Heustess requested that a Public Hearing be scheduled for October 21, 2013 to receive public comment regarding an economic incentive grant for a possible expansion at the Gildan Yarn plant. The expansion includes an additional investment of approximately \$15,000,000 and an additional 25 jobs, while maintaining the current labor force of approximately 125. Mr. Heustess stated that Gildan Yarns has been one of the most stable companies within the county in the last ten years. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board unanimously approved the Public Hearing to be held on October 21, 2013 at 6:30pm.

ITEM 9. Health and Human Services (Cris Harrelson, Director)

- A. Cris Harrelson provided an overview of the Young Families Connect Grant program, which could potentially bring \$770,000 into Bladen County over the next 3.5 years. The grant is designed to assist young pregnant women and parents between the ages of 13 to 24 by supporting programs that will increase the number of target young adults who complete high school, complete a

secondary school program, gain meaningful employment, receive prenatal care, have a reproductive life plan, decrease tobacco use, increase parenting skills and enroll in medical insurance plans, among other responsibilities. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board unanimously approved the agency to proceed with the application process for the Young Families Connect Grant.

- B. Mr. Harrelson presented the Clinical Renewal Contract with Bladen Community College for nursing and nursing assistant students to complete rotations within the county Health department in order to complete their education requirements. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously approved the renewal Clinical Contract with Bladen Community College.

ITEM 10. Advisory Board Appointments

- A. **Bladen County Watershed Review Board:** Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously reappointed Franklin Graham and Warren Dale Graham, with term expiration dates of September 6, 2016.

ITEM 11. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration at the October 21, 2013 Meeting:

- A. Keep Bladen Beautiful (1)
B. East Arcadia Fire Service District Committee (3)
C. EMS Advisory Council (3)

ITEM 12. County Manager (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin provided an overview of the Bladen Community College FY 2013-14 Budget for consideration of approval. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board unanimously approved the budget as submitted.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously approved a \$500 appropriation to East Bladen's Future Farmers' Association to assist in covering travel to the National FFA convention in Louisville, KY in late October.
- C. Mr. Martin reviewed a letter from The Bladen Baptist Association Director of Missions Bruce Cannon requesting a waiver of disposal fees and permit fees for Eric and Julie Martin of Bladenboro. Their home had to be demolished due to extensive black mold and termite damage. The black mold was so widespread that much of their household possessions had to be disposed of as well. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously approved the waiver of Construction/Demolition disposal fees, as well as building permits fees for demolition and new construction for Eric and Julie Martin of Bladenboro. Their account for Construction/Demolition disposal fees is currently showing a balance of \$2,673.00. The permits which have already been applied for and processed total \$266.00 for demolition of their home and construction of their new home. Other required permits will include electrical, plumbing, mechanical and insulation. There is also a possibility of additional construction debris to dispose of during construction of their new home.
- D. Mr. Martin provided an overview of available options to county employees and changes to the State Health Plan to be effective January 1, 2014. There will be three options from which the employees must choose. There is a new component in the cost structure, which includes financial incentives for completion of three wellness activities, which can be completed online. The completion of the three activities will reduce the premium cost by as much as \$50 per month for the most common 80/20 Plan. Historically the Commissioners have covered 100% of the premium costs for each employee.
- E. Mr. Martin asked the Board to consider declaring the old Courthouse flag pole as surplus and included as part of the surplus property to be auctioned on Saturday, October 12, 2013. A motion was made by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Pait, to donate the surplus flagpole to the Bladen County Veteran's Association. A vote was not called for due to discussion about other local groups who have shown an interest in the flagpole. Upon a substitute motion made by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by

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Commissioner Cogdell, the Board approved to table the topic, by a vote of five (5) AYES (Commissioners Gillespie, Cogdell, Blanks, Priest, Smith) to four (4) NOES (Commissioners Peterson, Pait, Dowless and Edge).

- F. Mr. Martin provided an overview of potential impact of the Federal shutdown on local agencies. Information that is being received is very fluid and the financial exposure to the County is unknown. The Health Department, Department of Social Services, Soil and Water Conservation, Division on Aging and the Sheriff's Offices receive federal funding, thus will be effected by the shutdown. The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program and Maternal Health Program are both administered by the Health Department and generate significant revenue within the County at the retail level. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program, Social Services Block Grant Program, Child Care Development Fund are administered by the Department of Social Services. The Child Care Program is the most expensive program, at a cost of over \$70,000 per month. The Sheriff's Office is being affected by the Office of Justice Programs being shut down on October 4, 2013. There has been a recent award of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant program to Bladen County which will fund two additional school resource officers. Soil and Water Conservation has experienced the loss of their telephone system, computer system and agency vehicles.
- G. Mr. Martin provided an overview of the calendar of events for October and November.
- H. The Board of Commissioners watched a short video produced by the NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) regarding participation on the organization's various steering committees.

ITEM 13. Closed Session

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Blanks, seconded by Commissioner Gillespie, the Board entered into Closed Session in Accordance with NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) Attorney Client Privilege.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Priest the Board exited the Closed Session and re-entered Regular Session.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

James G. Smith, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board