

March 7, 2016

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 7, 2016 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

- Russell Priest, Chairman
- Arthur Bullock, Vice Chairman
- Charles R. Peterson
- Billy Ray Pait
- G. Michael Cogdell
- Dr. Delilah Blanks
- Daniel Dowless
- Wayne Edge
- James G. "Jimmie" Smith

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

ITEM 1. Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order.

Reverend Larry Hayes, Good News Baptist Church of Bladenboro, provided the Invocation. County Manager Gregory J. Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 2. Consent Items:

Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of February 15, 2016 Regular Meeting.
- C. Budget Amendments, as follows:

Motor Pool

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.253	Vehicle Parts	734.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	734.00	

2014 Dodge Charger 244293.

Parks and Recreation

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106600.270	Advertising	92.50	
106600.272	Concessions	4,000.00	
106600.352	M/R Equipment	145.72	
106600.395	Schools & Meetings	383.54	
106600.493	Refunds	190.00	
106600.499	Misc Recreation	2,288.00	
106600.803	Insurance & Utilities	815.00	
106600.610	Contract Services	3,000.00	
106600.126	Part-time Salaries		3,000.00
<i>Revenues</i>			
103660.012	Concessions	4,811.76	
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenues	2,288.00	
103660.000	Insurance	815.00	

EPICS drafts for current fiscal year.

Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106800.808.002	Veteran Memorial Project	1,215.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	1,215.00	

Rollover of unspent Veteran Memorial Project.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.535	Medicaid	1,861.68	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143591.010	Client Refund	1,861.68	

EPICS drafts for current fiscal year.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.555	Client Refund	50.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143591.010	Client Refund	50.00	

To reimburse client for NCHC enrollment fee.

March 7, 2016

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.550	Smart Start	46,024.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143690.000	Smart Start	46,024.00	

Increase in Smart Start funding.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.565	Day Care	252,429.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.310	DSS Day Care	252,429.00	

Increase in allocation for FY 2015-2016.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
146100.6160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness	296.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143190.028	Child Abuse Awareness	296.00	

Purchases of Child Abuse Awareness cookbooks.

Solid Waste

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
205805.499.048	Misc – Recycling Grant	6,276.25	
<i>Revenues</i>			
203321.013	Recycling (CWR) Grant	6,276.25	

Reimbursement funds for CWRAR Grants 6394 & 6462.

D. County Attorney Invoices.

Date	Department	Amount
2/22/16	Sheriff's Office	\$ 350.00
2/23/16	Water Department	\$ 826.00
3/01/16	Mar-16 Retainer	\$ 300.00
	Total	\$ 1,476.00

ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

No Commissioner brought a topic of discussion to the Board.

ITEM 4. Individuals / Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

- A. Sunday Allen introduced Miss Bladenboro's Outstanding Teen Anna Grace Allen. Anna Grace will be traveling to Raleigh, along with Miss Bladenboro Haven Cashwell, for the Miss North Carolina Scholarship Pageant scheduled for June. Anna Grace discussed her platform, Sock It to 'Em. She collects socks to be distributed to local homeless individuals. Mrs. Sunday Allen asked the Board to consider a contribution to assist in offsetting travel expenses for the two Bladen County delegates. The Board indicated its willingness to address the issue at a future meeting.
- B. Upon request, Charlotte Smith was recognized to address the Board. Mrs. Smith introduced herself as a county taxpayer and expressed her concerns regarding an apparent division of the Board related to a Sales Tax Referendum which is on the March 15, 2016 ballot. Following discussion regarding possible uses of additional revenue which could be generated by an additional 1/4¢ sales tax, Mrs. Smith expressed her thoughts concerning a very strong Bladen Improvement Political Action Committee and encouraged the Board of Commissioners to work together to accomplish goals for Bladen County.

ITEM 5. Bladen Community College: (Jeff Kornegay, Executive Vice President)

- A. Mr. Kornegay provided an update regarding a US Economic Development Administration Grant in the amount of \$1,300,000 to construct a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Advanced Manufacturing Technology Training facility on BCC's campus. The Golden LEAF Foundation is providing approximately \$500,000 in funding for this project and the County of Bladen has appropriated \$50,000 in matching funds during its regular meeting on August 17, 2015. The project cost is estimated at \$1,860,000.

March 7, 2016

- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously approved the attached financial Assistance Grant Award:



ITEM 6. Revenue Department: (Renee Davis, Tax Assessor)

- A. Mrs. Davis provided an overview of recently received bids to purchase county-owned properties (Parcel numbers: 0027453, 0027454, 0014451). The property was foreclosed by the County in 2016. Heir to the property, Asia Bush, offered a purchase price of \$11,822.97 through a private sale since she has an interest in the property. Mr. Dennis Williams offered a bid of \$11,825 to begin the upset bid process. Mrs. Davis stated that each of the bidders paid a 5% deposit and recommended a closing for either party to be no less than 30 days. Commissioner Cogdell provided a motion to accept heir Asia Bush's bid, with a sixty-day window to close on the property. A second was provided by Commissioner Blanks. Following discussion, and upon a revised motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board unanimously accepted a private sale bid amount of \$11,822.97 submitted by Asia Bush, with ninety (90) days to close the transaction.

ITEM 7. Advisory Board Appointments:

- A. **Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (5):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously reappointed Livingston Lewis and Joey Todd to one-year terms of service, with the terms expiring June 30, 2017; appointed Leon Graham and Chris Hunt to two-year terms of service, with the terms expiring June 30, 2018; and tabled an appointment for a fifth council member to a future meeting.

ITEM 8. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration during a March 21, 2016 Board Meeting:

- A. **Bladen County Planning Board (1)**
B. **Keep Bladen Beautiful (2)**
C. **White Lake Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustment (ETJ) (1)**

ITEM 9. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of March and April 2016. During calendar review, upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board unanimously scheduled a special meeting regarding the budget for 6:00pm on Monday, April 25, 2016.
B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Blanks, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously scheduled a Special Budget Workshop for 6:00pm on Thursday, March 31, 2016.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Russell Priest, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners