

**March 16, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 16, 2015 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

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

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

**ITEM 1.** Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order.

Chairman Peterson invited the Commissioners and everyone in attendance to come to the front of the Commissioners Chambers for an unveiling of a newly installed Bladen County Seal including the US National Motto, "In God We Trust". Chairman Peterson then expressed his appreciation to the Board for supporting the addition to the County Seal and also shared that the new Seal would be a reminder and continue to serve as a symbol for Bladen County citizens. Numerous Bladen County ministers and others in attendance thanked the Board.

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 Pait, the Board approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Agenda.
- B. Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 2, 2015.
- C. Minutes of Special Meeting of March 9, 2015.
- D. County Attorney Invoices:

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Department</b> | <b>Amount</b>      |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 3/01/15     | Mar-15 Retainer   | \$ 300.00          |
| 3/04/15     | Sheriff's Office  | \$ 760.00          |
| 3/09/15     | Sheriff's Office  | \$ 1,950.00        |
|             | <b>Total</b>      | <b>\$ 3,010.00</b> |

- E. Tax Refunds and Releases No. 2-15.
- F. BARTS' System Safety Program Plan (SSPP) and Delegation of Authority.
- G. Following Appendix "B" as Surplus County Property:



**ITEM 3. Public Hearing:**

Chairman Peterson declared open the Public Hearing to receive comments regarding the FY 2015-2016 Budget. He stated that the outreach to county residents, making surveys available through numerous outlets, was somewhat successful. He shared that fifty-six (56) surveys were returned to the County Manager's office. Chairman Peterson shared a brief summary of the priority issues identified by the surveys, as follows:

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- 1) Education
- 2) Economic Development
- 3) Sheriff's Office
- 4) Department of Social Services
- 5) Health Department
- 6) Animal Shelter
- 7) Library
- 8) Parks & Recreation
- 9) Transportation
- 10) Senior Centers

Chairman Peterson expressed his appreciation to the individuals who submitted surveys. He stated that they would be taken into consideration during the budget process.

No one addressed the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Peterson declared closed the Public Hearing.

**ITEM 4. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:**

There were no matters of interest brought to the floor by the Board.

**ITEM 5. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

- A. Mr. John Elliott of Duke Energy Progress provided an update and overview of the construction of a Fayetteville Solar Facility on the Dupont site. Duke Energy will be the owner and operator of the Fayetteville Solar facility, which will serve Duke Energy customers. Mr. Elliott stated that Duke Energy is committed to expand solar energy in North Carolina.

Mr. Elliott introduced Project Director Harry Lancaster of Duke Energy Progress, an engineer with thirty-four years of experience, as the manager of the project. Mr. Lancaster stated that approximately 250 jobs will be available during the construction process. He expects the site will be operational by the end of 2015.

Mr. Lancaster introduced Kevin P. Hennessey of Phoenix Solar, a partner in the construction of the project and manufacturer of solar panels. Mr. Hennessey stated that safety would be a priority during the construction of the solar facility. Mr. Hennessey shared that approximately 10 trucks a day would be delivering solar panels beginning in May. Mr. Hennessey stated that once the facility was functional, that noise would not be a distraction or an issue. He stated that Horne Brothers of Fayetteville have been contracted to construct the facility.

Mr. Elliott expressed his appreciation of the Board's time and for the opportunity to provide the update. Chairman Peterson expressed the Boards' appreciation to Mr. Elliott, Mr. Lancaster and Mr. Hennessey for the update and for their work in Bladen County.

**ITEM 6. Revenue Department: (Chris Ellis, Tax Assessor)**

- A. The Honorable Clerk of Court Niki Dennis administered the Oath of Office to Tax Assessor Chris Ellis for his recent four-year reappointment as Tax Assessor.
- B. Mr. Ellis provided a detailed update regarding the tax collection process and procedures. He shared the process for delinquent collections, short term goals which will positively impact current year taxes, and a Property Tax Payment Plan Enrollment Form.

**ITEM 7. Health and Human Services Agency: (Cris Harrelson, Director)**

- A. Mr. Harrelson provided an overview of a Consolidated Agreement with Bladen County Health Department and the State of North Carolina, which

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outlines the duties and responsibilities of both the County and the State for providing services to the citizens of Bladen County.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved a FY 2015-2016 Consolidated Agreement with Bladen County Health Department and State of North Carolina.

**ITEM 8. Emergency Management: (Bradley Kinlaw, Fire Marshal)**

- A. In Mr. Kinlaw's absence, County Manager Greg Martin provided an overview of a proposed amendment to the 2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Memorandum of Agreement. The amendment addresses additional activities scheduled to be completed which will increase the grant amount to \$37,330.93.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board unanimously approved the amendment to the 2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant Memorandum of Agreement.

**ITEM 9. Advisory Board Appointments:**

- A. **Southeastern Economic Development Commission (1):** Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously appointed Arthur Bullock to an unexpired term with the term expiring March 31, 2017.

**ITEM 10. County Manager: (Greg Martin)**

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of March and April, 2015
- B. Mr. Martin provided an update regarding Construction Manager at Risk and Architect Services agreements. He stated that USDA Rural Development reviewed the proposed agreements and recommended revisions to be included. Mr. Martin proposed including the revised agreements at an upcoming Special Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2015. Chairman Peterson agreed to include the agreements on the Agenda for March 23, 2015.

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

ATTEST:

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Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

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Charles R. Peterson, Chairman  
Bladen County Board of Commissioners