

March 31, 2016

The Bladen County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting regarding Budget at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 31, 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

Dr. Delilah Blanks

G. Michael Cogdell

Daniel Dowless

Wayne Edge

James G. "Jimmie" Smith

Chairman Priest called the meeting to order.

ITEM 1. Review Preliminary Budget Information

Mr. Martin reviewed trends and projections of prior years' revenues and 2016 projections, along with capital and one-time items for the FY 2016-2017 Budget. Additional information regarding DSS was reviewed, which indicated stabilization of county cost, a DSS lobby addition and federal processing requirements related to Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). Mr. Martin reviewed several items of concern regarding revenues, including stagnant growth in property tax base and sales tax, property taxes, EMS, and Health Department related programs.

Mr. Martin stated that capital requests total approximately \$1,673,300 for the upcoming budget, along with \$642,600 in personnel requests, with education requests currently unknown. Increases in retirement, retiree health insurance and the state health plan all must be budgeted for FY 2016-2017.

ITEM 2. Discussion

The Board discussed priorities, which included:

Future projections for EMS

Education

Bladen Community College

ITEM 3. Other Items

Mr. Martin discussed a residency requirement for department heads which is included in the personnel policy. He asked the Board for feedback if the policy could be reconsidered future meeting. Following discussion, the Board indicated its willingness to waive the policy for the prospective Health & Human Services Agency Director candidate and the Tax Administrator, and to formally amend the policy at a future meeting.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

ATTEST:

Gregory J. Martin, Deputy Clerk

Russell Priest, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners