

**May 4, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 4, 2015 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

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

Excused: Dr. Delilah Blanks  
Russell Priest

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 Pait, the Board approved the following Consent Items:

- A. Revised Agenda, deletion of Item 12, Closed Session.
- B. Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 20, 2015.
- C. Budget Amendments as follows:

**Administration**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>106900.909</b>	To Water Enterprise Fund	141,102.49	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>103190.050</b>	Fund Balance Appropriation	141,102.49	

Credit Cards from January 2013 thru June 2014 posted to General Fund.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>146100.689</b>	Energy Neighbor Fund	456.40	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>143531.031</b>	Energy Neighbor Fund	456.40	

Funding Authorization #11.

**Department of Social Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
<b>146100.6160.650.002</b>	Child Abuse Awareness	798.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
<b>143190.028</b>	Child Abuse Awareness	798.00	

Donations for Child Abuse Awareness.

- D. Tax Refunds & Releases Report No. 3-15, incorporated by reference and made a part of these Minutes.
- E. Mutual Recreational Service-Providing Agreement with the Town of Bladenboro, regarding the former National Guard Armory facility.
- F. FY 2015-2016 Rural and Municipal Fire Department Funding Agreements and Automatic Aid Agreements.
- G. 2015 Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant Agreement in the amount of \$3,612.00.
- H. The following Nurses Week Proclamation:



May 4, 2015

I. The following Day of Prayer in Bladen County Proclamation:



J. The following Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation:



K. Public Hearing scheduled on May 18, 2015 regarding a Bladen-Columbus Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

L. The following Teacher Appreciation Week Resolution:



**ITEM 3. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:**

- A. Chairman Peterson presented the newly adopted National Nurses Week Proclamation to Nursing Week Committee Chairperson Laurie Goodman and expressed the Board's appreciation for their efforts and hard work. Chairman Peterson read aloud the Proclamation.
- B. Chairman Peterson read aloud the newly adopted National Teacher Appreciation Resolution in honor and recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week.

Chairman Peterson expressed condolences to Dr. Delilah Blanks and her family upon the recent passing of Dr. Blanks' sister, Juanita Bowen Hill.

Chairman Peterson stated that the advertised Board of Equalization and Review Board meetings for the upcoming week will be held as follows: Wednesday, May 6 from 1-4pm. The meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 5 and Thursday, May 7 are cancelled.

Chairman Peterson asked the Board to review a handout from the Animal Control Advisory Board regarding its membership requirements for consideration at a future meeting.

Chairman Peterson reminded everyone that Thursday, May 7, 2015 is National Day of Prayer.

**ITEM 4. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

Ms. Judy Hester of the Butters-Richardson community addressed the Board regarding ongoing flooding issues. Ms. Hester stated that residents have difficulty getting to their homes among other issues. County Manager Greg Martin shared with Ms. Hester that Planning Director Greg Elkins and Soil & Water Conservation Director Dean Morris have met with Army Corps of Engineers representative Emily Greer recently to discuss possible solutions. He also stated that funds from a grant may be available to assist with the planning portion of a potential project. Mr. Martin stated that there may be options to consider as well, one of which would involve adjacent property owners. Ms. Hester stated that she anticipates the necessary releases from the out-of-state property owners soon. Mr. Martin shared that Mr. Morris will continue his search for additional funds which may assist in completing a project.

May 4, 2015

**ITEM 5. Public Hearing:**

- A. Chairman Peterson declared open a Public Hearing to receive comments regarding the closeout of a 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Scattered-Site Housing Program.

Ms. Cathy Newkirk addressed the Board and expressed her appreciation to the Board for participating in the program, which assisted a family member at a critical time.

Chairman Peterson declared closed the Public Hearing.

**ITEM 6. Lumber River Council of Governments: (Jan Hester-Maynor, Executive Director)**

- A. Mrs. Hester-Maynor thanked the Board for its consideration of a 2015 Single Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (SFR LP 15) Agreement. She indicated that she had prepared a presentation, but that Ms. Newkirk had expressed very positive feedback during the previous Public Hearing, and she would be unable to add to Ms. Newkirk's sentiments. Mrs. Maynor further explained that a loan through this program was forgivable over time. Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved a 2015 Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (SFR LP 15) Agreement in the amount of \$170,000.
- B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously approved Lumber River Council of Governments to administer a 2015 Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Pool (SFR LP 15) Agreement. A standard agreement will be submitted for approval at a future meeting.

**ITEM 7. Bladen Community College: (Dr. William Findt, President)**

- A. Dr. Findt expressed his appreciation to the Board for its time and consideration. Board Chair Dennis Troy, Vice President of Finance Jay Stanley and Vice President of Instruction and Student Services Jeff Kornegay also were introduced to the Board. Dr. Findt presented BCC's 2015-2016 budget request and provided additional information on several line items. Insurance expense has increased due to the high cost of equipment inventory. Other items which increased include additional security and custodial staff. An increase in salaries and benefits for staff has also been included.

Mr. Troy thanked the Board for its support and requested its ongoing support of BCC in order to continue educating its students.

Chairman Peterson expressed appreciation of BCC's budget request and that it would be considered during upcoming budget meetings.

**ITEM 8. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration at the May 18, 2015 Meeting:**

- A. Keep Bladen Beautiful (1)  
B. Kelly Water Dike and Drainage District Committee (1)

**ITEM 9. Bladen County Water District Session:**

- A. Upon a motion by Commissionr Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board entered a session as Bladen County Water District Board of Directors.
- B. Mr. Martin provided an update regarding discussion regarding Tar Heel Water Corporation. He stated that the THWC Board of Directors indicated its willingness to turn over its water system to Bladen County Water District.
- C. Following discussion, Mr. Martin was directed by consensus of the Board to begin the due diligence process regarding assuming ownership of THWC.

May 4, 2015

- D. Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board exited session as Bladen County Water District Board of Directors.

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

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed Board calendars for the months of May and June, 2015, reminding the Board of the Board of Equalization and Review meeting on Wednesday, June 6, 2015, to begin at 1pm.
- B. Mr. Martin asked to table consideration of a 2016 Medication Assistance Program (MAP) Grant application to a future meeting. Health and Human Services Agency Director Cris Harrelson will provide an overview at the Board meeting scheduled for May 18, 2015. Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, seconded by Commissioner Pait, the Board unanimously tabled consideration of the MAP Grant application until May 18, 2015.
- C. Mr. Martin shared with the Board that Representative Brisson has recently communicated his anticipation of a letter of agreement from the NC Department of Public Safety regarding inmate labor and transportation.

Mr. Martin provided an update of the Detention and Law Enforcement Center Construction Project. He stated that the Development Design study has been submitted and a constructability review is currently underway. A Preliminary Architectural Review (PAR) is expected to complete the loan application for USDA files and information.

Chairman Peterson briefly discussed the Detention and Law Enforcement Construction project as well. He indicated that he was closely watching progress and that ground breaking was expected in July or August, 2015.

**ITEM 11. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:**

No one addressed the Board of Commissioners

**ITEM 12. Closed Session:**

During approval of the Agenda and Consent Items, the Closed Session was deleted from the Agenda.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm.

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