

May 12, 2014

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 12, 2014 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

Billy Ray Pait

Daniel Dowless

G. Michael Cogdell

Wayne Edge

Delilah Blanks

Russell Priest

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 Pait the Board approved the following Consent Items:

A. Agenda.

B. Minutes of Regular Meeting on April 22, 2014.

C. Budget Amendments as follows:

Finance

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
104400.740	Capital Outlay - Equipment	14,637.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	14,637.00	

Unspent New World loan proceeds to purchase new printer compatible with Windows 7.

Animal Control

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
105200.499.028	Spay/Neuter Program	7,114.53	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103260.041	Spay/Neuter Program	7,114.53	

Application for January - March Spay/Neuter Services.

Administration

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
106900.904	To EMS	42,450.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	42,450.00	

Insurance proceeds for the loss of a 2008 Chevrolet Ambulance, plus the stretcher.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
146100.689	Energy Neighbor	452.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.031	Energy Neighbor	452.00	

Increased funding, authorization #14.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
146100.689	Energy Neighbor	456.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.031	Energy Neighbor	456.00	

Increased funding, authorization #15.

Department of Social Services

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Debit</i>	<i>Credit</i>
146100.693	Medicaid Transportation	50,000.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
143531.320	Medicaid Transportation	50,000.00	

To pay current and future expenses. 100% reimbursable.

May 12, 2014

Department of Social Services

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

To reimburse a client for a NCHC enrollment fee.

Department of Social Services

Expenditures		Debit	Credit
1461006160.650.002	Child Abuse Awareness Donations	697.00	
Revenues			
143190.028	Child Abuse Awareness Donations	697.00	

Donations for Child Abuse Awareness.

Emergency Telephone

Expenditures		Debit	Credit
225301.740.004	Alt 911 Grant	300,000.00	
Revenues			
223191.014	Alt 911 Grant	300,000.00	

Expenditures to be used for completion of Alt E911 Center through Grant from NC 911 Board.

EMS

Expenditures		Debit	Credit
325302.741	Capital Outlay - Vehicles	33,000.00	
325302.740	Capital Outlay - Equipment	6,000.00	
325302.200	Supplies & Materials	3,450.00	
Revenues			
323422.002	Fm General Fund	42,450.00	

Insurance proceeds for the loss of a 2008 Chevrolet Ambulance, plus the stretcher.

D. County Attorney Invoices:

Date	Department	Amount
5/01/14	May-14 Retainer	\$ 300.00
5/01/14	Animal Control	\$ 1,500.00
5/02/14	Human Resources Department	\$ 500.00
5/07/14	Administration	\$ 600.00
5/08/14	Solid Waste	\$ 500.00
	Total	\$ 3,400.00

E. The following Proclamation recognizing May, 2014 as Mental Health Month:



F. The following Proclamation recognizing Mr. George Andrews on Reaching His 100th Birthday:



G. Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) FY2015 Program Agreements.

May 12, 2014

H. Grant Agreement with NCDENR Regarding Solid Waste Management Commingled School Recycling Collection and Compaction Pilot Project.

ITEM 3. Bladen County Schools: Dr. Robert Taylor, Superintendent

Dr. Robert Taylor, along with Finance Officer Sharon Penny and Board Chairperson Ophelia Munn-Goins, presented Bladen County Schools Budget Message for FY 2014-2015.

The requested budget for the 2014-2015 school year requests \$7,800,000, which is an increase of approximately \$1.8 million (30%) over current year's approved budget. Dr. Taylor stated that due to decreasing student enrollment and based on budget planning allotments from the Department of Public Instruction, the school district is proposing reductions in staff for a total of 60 positions. There are some retirements, resignations and temporary employees who will not be replaced due to the Reduction in Force (RIF) Policy which will be implemented after the budget is approved.

Student enrollment is expected to maintain at approximately 4,800 for the upcoming year.

Dr. Taylor thanked the Board of Commissioners for their time and consideration.

ITEM 4. Bladen Community College: Dr. William Findt, President

Dr. Findt, along with Trustee Board Chair Hayes Petteway, Chief Financial Officer Jay Stanley and Associate Vice President of Student Services Barry Priest, provided an overview of the College's economic impact on the County. He also addressed the budget request for the upcoming year (FY 2014-2015). Dr. Findt stated for every \$1 spent on tuition returns \$6 in earnings.

Dr. Findt and his staff have identified seventeen (17) capital projects, and proposed a new building facility. The proposed budget request is approximately \$7 million for the upcoming year.

Plant operations and maintenance expenses are escalating because of the age of the campus facilities. Dr. Findt drew attention to the fact that many of the buildings were built in the 1960's.

Dr. Findt thanked the Board for its time and consideration.

ITEM 5. Recognition by Citizens of Tobermory:

Mr. Vernon Richardson, representing the citizens of Tobermory, awarded a plaque of appreciation and recognition to Deputy Sheriff Kenny Simmons for his diligent efforts in reducing the crime rate in the Tobermory area. Sheriff Benston also commended Deputy Simmons for his work ethic, his persistence and presence in the Tobermory area.

ITEM 6. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

A. Chairman Jimmie Smith and Health and Human Services Director Cris Harrelson recognized Deborah Brisson upon her retirement from the County. Ms. Brisson, working most recently as Director of Nursing, retired on May 1, 2014, after thirty years of service.

B. Chairman Jimmie Smith recognized Mr. George Andrews' family in attendance and asked them to receive a Proclamation recognizing Mr. Andrews' for reaching his 100th birthday in April, 2014. Chairman Smith asked the Clerk to the Board to read aloud the proclamation for those in attendance.

C. The meeting was recessed briefly at 7pm for a reception in honor of those individuals recognized.

Chairman Smith reconvened the meeting at 7:15pm.

Commissioner Peterson wished to bring a few issues to the Board's attention and request Mr. Martin to research and present findings at a future meeting.

- 1) Mr. Peterson asked Mr. Martin to research the possibility of the Board instituting a quarter cent sales tax increase without the necessity of a referendum of county citizens.

May 12, 2014

- 2) Mr. Peterson stated that he was approached by a former county employee who was injured while on the job and the worker's compensation release paperwork clearly stated that by signing the paperwork, the individual would be acknowledging that they would not apply for a county position in the future. Mr. Peterson asked Mr. Martin to research this and make a report at a future meeting.
- 3) Mr. Peterson wished to address the Board regarding a Bladen County citizen who lost his home to a fire earlier this year and indicated that paying for disposal fees of the demolition material was a financial hardship. Mr. Peterson stated that he understood that homeowner's insurance may cover a portion or all of the disposal fees. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board unanimously approved waiving disposal fees for demolition materials for Thomas & Becky Packer.

ITEM 7. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address the Commissioners

- A. Mr. Ken Jones, Chief Operating Officer of Eastpointe provided an update related to mental healthcare and an overview of services available to Bladen County's citizens. Eastpointe is a managed care organization (MCO) which serves Bladen County and eleven other counties. Currently there are ten MCO's in North Carolina, with plans to reduce that number to four in the next 2-4 years. Eastpointe is currently discussing how to merge or join forces with other MCO's to cover the eastern portion of the state. Eastpointe does not directly provide services, but works with a network of providers for referrals. The process may assist in reducing the number of emergency room visits for unmet needs within mental healthcare.
- B. Mr. Greg Lee of USDA Wildlife Services updated the Board regarding the Beaver Management Assistance Program. This program is a joint partnership between federal, state and county governments to reduce the cost of beaver management services for property owners. Mr. Lee covers not only Bladen County, but also Sampson and Columbus. He stated that Bladen County does not have as many beaver issues as Columbus and Sampson. Bladen County, through participation in the BMAP, currently provides \$4,000 in funding, which leverages approximately \$26,000 in services available.
- C. Ms. Nubia Braye wished to address the Board regarding liens on homes related to CHAF (Crisis Housing Assistance Fund). Ms. Braye stated that her elderly mother received funding to assist with her home after Hurricane Floyd and she cannot afford to maintain flood insurance on her home, which is a requirement of CHAF. Her home is not in a flood plain and Ms. Braye asked for the Board's consideration in releasing the deed of trust on her mother's home.
County Manager Greg Martin stated that he and County Attorney Leslie Johnson had been discussing the CHAF properties and recognized the need for the county to review the deeds of trust for possible release, and a recommendation will be forthcoming to the Board.

ITEM 8. Public Hearing

- A. Chairman Smith declared open the Public Hearing regarding a proposed Rowan Fire District. No one wished to be heard by the Board.
Chairman Smith declared closed the Public Hearing.
Emergency Services Director Bradley Kinlaw certified to the Board that the mailing required by N.C.G.S. 153A-302(c) was completed as mandatory.

May 12, 2014

B. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board adopted the following Resolution to establish Rowan Fire District:

RESOLUTION FOR ESTABLISHING THE BOUNDARIES OF
ROWAN RURAL FIRE SERVICE DISTRICT OF BLADEN COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the boundary lines of the Rowan Fire Service District should be established to include certain parcels of land contiguous to the Fire Service District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. General Statute §151A-301, the Board has determined to establish the boundaries of the Rowan Fire Service District to include the parcels as shown on the map attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Board resolved to hold a public hearing with respect to such matters on May 12, 2014, and decided that the appropriate representatives of the County take the necessary action to properly notice such public hearing as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. General Statute Section §151A-302 (c) a notice of the public hearing was prepared stating the date, hour and place of the hearing and its subject and stating that the report containing a map of the Fire Service District and the areas to be annexed was available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk to the Board, and that such annexation is the requirements of §151A-301; and

WHEREAS, the Board caused to be prepared a report consistent with §151A-303(a) and the report was available in the office of the Clerk to the Board for public inspection for at least ten months before the date of the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. General Statutes § 151A-302 (b), the notice of public hearing was published at least once in the newspaper that circulates in the proposed Fire Service District, in online news service and in the Public Notice section of the Bladen County website, and the notice has been mailed at least four weeks before the date of the hearing to the owners as shown by the county tax records as of the preceding January 1 of all property located within the areas to be annexed, and the Clerk has certified to the Board that such mail was sent; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held at 6:30 PM on May 12, 2014, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Bladen County Courthouse, Elkhartsville, North Carolina in which time all interested parties appeared and were heard, or had the opportunity to appear and be heard, concerning the question of establishing the boundaries of the Rowan Fire Service District; and

WHEREAS, the Board, following the public hearing, finds that:

1. The areas to be annexed are contiguous to the Kelly Fire Service District, with at least one acre of the area's aggregate original boundary coinciding with the existing boundary of the Kelly Fire Service District.

2. The areas to be annexed into the Rowan Fire Service District require the services provided by the Kelly Volunteer Fire Department and will benefit from inclusion in the Rowan Fire Service District.

3. It is in the best interests of the County to provide the proposed services or services in the established district without unreasonable or burdensome annual tax levies, and it is in the best interests of the citizens affected to be annexed into the District; and

4. The areas to be annexed meet the requirements and standards of §151A-301; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Bladen County Board of Commissioners, meeting in regular session at Elkhartsville, North Carolina, on May 12, 2014, that the areas as shown on the map attached are annexed into the respective Rowan Fire Service District of Bladen County, consistently herewith effective July 1, 2014.

Adopted this 12th day of May, 2014.

Attest:


Mark C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board



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

- A. Carol Strickland and Marianne Valentiner provided an update of a response received from the State regarding the 2013 Community Health Assessment. Mrs. Strickland and Mrs. Valentiner stated that they were required to submit additional information related to the Corrective Action Plan. Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously approved the additional information for the Corrective Action Plan.
- B. Cris Harrelson requested the Board to consider reclassifying the Director of Nursing position from Grade 77 to Grade 79, due to additional importance of the position since consolidation. Upon a motion by Commissioner Blanks, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board unanimously approved the reclassification request.

ITEM 10. Emergency Medical Services: (Jeanene Green, Division Chief)

- A. In Ms. Greene's absence, Emergency Services Director Bradley Kinlaw and Bladenboro Chief Josh Parker presented a request to the Board from the Bladenboro Rescue Squad to submit an application for advancement to Paramedic level. Upon a motion by Commissioner Gillespie, seconded by Commissioner Peterson, the Board unanimously approved the application for submittal.

ITEM 11. Advisory Board Appointments

- A. **Juvenile Crime Prevention Committee (1):**
Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board unanimously tabled appointment to a future meeting.
- B. **Bladen County Planning Board (1):**
Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously appointed Joyce Walters to Aaron Cox's unexpired term with term expiration date of June 30, 2017.
- C. **Bladen County Zoning Board of Adjustment (1):**
Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board unanimously appointed Joyce Walters to Aaron Cox's unexpired term with term expiration date of June 30, 2017.
- D. **White Lake Rural Fire District Committee (2):**
Upon a motion by Commissioner Priest, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously appointed Lee Cain and Buddy Strickland with term expiration dates of June 30, 2017.

ITEM 12. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration at May 19 Meeting:

- A. **Dublin Fire District Committee (3)**

ITEM 13. County Manager: Greg Martin

- A. Mr. Martin reviewed the Board calendars for May and June, 2014.
B. NCACC Legislative Update Video:

May 12, 2014

The Board tabled the viewing of the video to a future meeting due to the late time of the evening.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Dowless, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

James G. Smith, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board