

**September 8, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse.

The following members were present:

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

Attorney: Leslie Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

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

Chairman Peterson presented Reverend Hayes with a recently redesigned Bladen County pin which includes "In God We Trust" above the county seal with his and the entire Board's appreciation. Reverend Hayes expressed his sincere gratitude.

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 August 17, 2015.
- C. Budget Amendments as follows:

**Register of Deeds/Division on Aging**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
104800.120	Salaries & Wages		2,260.88
104800.122	Bonus		87.00
104800.181	FICA		179.61
104800.182	Retirement		158.96
104800.183	Group Insurance		168.22
104800.185	Retiree Health Insurance		128.90
1062006230.120	Salaries & Wages	2,260.11	
1062006230.122	Bonus	87.00	
1062006230.181	FICA	179.56	
1062006230.182	Retirement	862.98	
1062006230.183	Group Insurance	2,803.68	
1062006230.185	Retiree Health Insurance	699.82	
1062006220.183	Group Insurance		3,909.58

Split employee with Register of Deeds and Division on Aging. Moving 53% positions to one full-time.

**Central Services**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105000.740	Capital Outlay - Equipment	5,165.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	5,165.00	

Balance to complete elevator project.

**Motor Pool**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105010.253	Vehicle Parts	842.66	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claim	842.66	

Insurance Payment.

**Sheriff**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105100.200.016	Supplies - Surplus Proceeds	8,193.61	
105100.499.043	Misc - Incident Provisions	2,898.06	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	11,091.67	

Rollover unspent proceeds from auction and incident provisions.

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**Emergency Management**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
105300.740	Capital Outlay – Equipment	605.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	605.00	

Tax, title, and tags for trailer purchased in FY 2015.

**Parks and Recreation**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106600.499	Miscellaneous Recreation	1,834.69	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.011	Insurance Claims	1,834.69	

Transfer the insurance claim money for loss in May.

**Parks and Recreation**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
106600.803	Insurance	620.00	
106600.499	Miscellaneous Recreation	6,400.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
103190.010	Miscellaneous Revenue	6,400.00	
103660.000	Insurance Fees	620.00	

Transfer insurance to expense account. Transfer scoreboard donations to expense account.

**Solid Waste**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
205800.398	KBB/Community Relations	2,112.84	
<i>Revenues</i>			
203190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	2,112.84	

Rollover unspent Keep Bladen Beautiful funds.

**Emergency Telephone**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
225301.493	Refunds	76,185.31	
<i>Revenues</i>			
223191.014	Alt 911 Center Grant	76,185.31	

To return overpayment from E911 Grant.

**Hickory Grove Fire Department**

<i>Expenditures</i>		<i>Increase</i>	<i>Decrease</i>
375337.191	Professional Services – Audit	250.00	
<i>Revenues</i>			
373190.050	Fund Balance Appropriated	250.00	

For completion of the 2014 Audited Financial Statements.

**D. County Attorney Invoices.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Amount</b>
8/17/15	Governing Board/Revenue Dept.	\$ 9,962.50
8/18/15	Animal Control	\$ 350.00
8/21/15	Health Dept.	\$ 510.00
8/25/15	General Services	\$ 610.00
9/01/15	September 2015 Retainer	\$ 300.00
9/02/15	Computer Operations	\$ 560.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,292.50</b>

E. Starvision, Inc. Service Agreement regarding hosting a dedicated email server.

F. Public Hearing Scheduled for September 21, 2015 at 6:30pm to Receive Comments Regarding a Rezoning Request.

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

Commissioner Smith asked the Board to consider rescheduling the first meeting in October to Tuesday, October 6, 2015 to be able to attend the annual meeting of Four County EMC which is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2015. Chairman Peterson asked County Manager Greg Martin to include that item under County Manager’s portion of the meeting.

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

No one in attendance addressed the Board.

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**ITEM 5. Bladen County Schools (Dr. Robert Taylor, Superintendent):**

- A. Dr. Taylor and Finance Officer Sharon Penny thanked the Board for the opportunity to meet and continue the process for a request for funds which was originally presented at the August 17, 2015 Regular Board meeting. Mrs. Penny stated that the State has not yet adopted a budget for FY 2015-16 and that the School Budget was still unknown. Dr. Taylor shared his concerns regarding the timeliness of receiving additional funds so that programs could continue and so that Bladen County Schools would fully understand what might have to be reduced or eliminated now instead of later. Following discussion, Dr. Taylor indicated that \$120,000 would cover teacher supplies and teacher supplements. Commissioner Priest then made a motion to allocate an additional \$120,000 for Bladen County Schools to assist in covering costs for teacher supplies and teacher supplements. Commissioner Edge provided the second. The motion was defeated by a vote of three (3) AYES (Priest, Edge, Smith) to six (6) NOES (Cogdell, Blanks, Bullock, Dowless, Pait, Peterson).

**ITEM 6. Sheriff's Office: (Sheriff James McVicker)**

- A. Captain Jeff Singletary provided an overview of the reclassification request of twelve (12) positions within the Sheriff's Office. Captain Singletary stated that there would be no need to increase the Sheriff's Office budget to fund the reclassified positions, because an Investigator position is being eliminated. Savings resulting from the eliminated position will fund the additional \$38,000 association with the position reclassifications. Following discussion and upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board approved the reclassification of the twelve positions, by a vote of eight (8) AYES (Smith, Edge, Cogdell, Blanks, Peterson, Priest, Dowless, Pait) to one (1) NO (Bullock).

**ITEM 7. General Services: (Robert Mazur, Director)**

- A. Mr. Mazur provided a brief overview of the NC Transportation Notification System (NCTNS). Upon approval and hiring of a Human Resources Director, Mr. Mazur recommends participating in the system which would notify Human Resources of conviction notifications of traffic offenses. Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously approved participation in the NCTNS.
- B. Mr. Mazur reviewed the following proposed text amendments to the Bladen County Personnel Policy:
- Including notification of potential installation of GPS units on County-owned vehicles to be included in Section I of the Use of Vehicles for County Business, 5.0 Review of Motor Vehicle Record, as follows:

*As a driver of a county vehicle, the authorized driver has been given certain privileges, but employees are cautioned that they should have no expectation of privacy while using county vehicles. The County reserves the right to monitor and track drivers in county vehicles utilizing the Global Positioning System (GPS). County vehicles are a highly visible reflection of county government and therefore, drivers of these vehicles are expected to drive safely and in appropriate places at all times. GPS may also be used for other business-related purposes, including but not limited to, improving customer service, managing productivity, locating stolen vehicles, providing aid to vehicles that break down, increasing employee safety, engine diagnostics for preventative maintenance, protecting assets effectively, or ensuring that employees are following their routes or assignments. Only the County Manager/Department Heads, or their designee, will have access to the GPS system regarding employee vehicle reporting and determine the county vehicles in which GPS technology will be installed. As a county driver, he/she assumes the duty of obeying all motor vehicle laws, maintaining the vehicle properly at all times, otherwise, following the policies and procedures outlined in the following.*

Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Edge, the Board unanimously approved the text amendment to include

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notification to all employees of potential installation of GPS units on County-owned vehicles.

- Including notification of Bladen County participating in the NC Transportation Notification System (NCTNS) to be included in Section I of the Use of Vehicles for County Business, 1.0 Overview, as follows:

*North Carolina Transportation Notification System is a companion database with the Division of Motor Vehicles database. In an effort to mitigate the potential negative consequences of high-risk driving behavior, every county employee that drives either county vehicles or their personal vehicles to conduct county business is required to sign a Transit Driver Notification System Driver's Disclosure form to authorize Bladen County to connect your driving record with the county as your employer. Once the process is completed, the Department of Motor Vehicles will notify Bladen County when an employee is convicted of a driving offense.*

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously adopted the text amendment to include notification to all employees of participation in NCTNS.

- Including notification to all employees of the possibility of fingerprinting when required by federal, state or local government, to be included in Section 9 of the Recruitment and Selection Policy, Reference and Credential Verification, as follows:

*Any reference check, background investigation, or education credentials verifications, whether by phone or letter, will become a part of the employee's permanent personnel information.....Criminal history and motor vehicle record checks are required for positions that include the handling of money, direct client services and those identified as safety sensitive. Additionally, some positions may require fingerprinting as deemed necessary by Federal, State and Local regulations.*

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bullock, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously adopted the text amendment to include notification to all employees of possible fingerprinting when required by federal, state or local government.

**ITEM 8. Advisory Board Appointments for Consideration at September 21, 2015 Meeting:**

- A. Keep Bladen Beautiful (1)
- B. Voluntary Agricultural Districts Committee (2)
- C. Watershed Review Board (3)

**ITEM 9. County Manager: (Greg Martin)**

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously approved rescheduling the first meeting in October to Tuesday, October 6, 2015, to allow attendance at the annual Four County EMC meeting.

Mr. Martin reviewed the Board calendars for September and October, 2015.

- B. Mr. Martin reviewed Requests for Qualifications recently received regarding a detention and law enforcement center construction project. The request was in reference to Special Inspections. Mr. Martin reviewed the four firms who submitted requested information. They are as follows:
  - ECS Carolinas, LLP
  - S&ME
  - Summit Engineering
  - Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Mr. Martin indicated that the recommended firm will be ECS Carolinas, LLP. The firm is in close proximity of the project and their working relationship with Columbus County has been professional, efficient and effective.

- C. Mr. Martin updated the Board regarding a previous request to search for a facilitator to conduct a session regarding roles and responsibilities of Board of

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Commissioners and staff. Mr. Martin contacted Madeline Henley who indicated that her fee and the fee charged by the School of Government would be comparable. Lumber River Council of Governments Executive Director Jan Hester-Maynor and former Executive Director Jim Perry could facilitate the special session at no charge.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board scheduled a special session that would be facilitated by Mrs. Hester-Maynor and Mr. Perry. The motion passed by a vote of six (6) AYES (Cogdell, Bullock, Blanks, Smith, Dowless, Edge) to three (3) NOES (Peterson, Priest, Pait).

Upon a motion by Commissioner Blanks, seconded by Commissioner Cogdell, the Board unanimously scheduled a special session regarding roles and responsibilities of Board of Commissioners and staff for Monday, September 28, 2015 at 4:30pm.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Cogdell, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

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