

February 18, 2015

A special meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 3:30pm. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with newly elected NC 7th District Congressman David Rouzer at his invitation.

Members present:

Chairman Charles R. Peterson

Vice Chairman Russell Priest

Dr. Delilah Blanks

James G. Smith

Daniel Dowless

Billy Ray Pait

Wayne Edge

G. Michael Cogdell

Arthur A. Bullock

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:30pm. Commissioner Smith provided an invocation.

Chairman Peterson thanked Congressman Rouzer for his invitation to meet and discuss federal issues which impact Bladen County.

Congressman Rouzer introduced himself to those in attendance and discussed his background and intent to assure accessibility of his offices in Washington, as well as within the 7th District of North Carolina.

His current committee assignments are Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and the Agriculture Committee. He serves as chairman of the Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Subcommittee, a first for a freshman Congressman.

Congressman Rouzer discussed education reform, the Keystone pipeline, the Affordable Care Act, Energy and Tax Reform which are all important issues for the 7th District of North Carolina, including Bladen County. Mr. Rouzer recognizes the need for updated infrastructure in Bladen County in order to meet requirements of potential businesses relocating or starting business in Bladen County.

Discussion was held regarding Medicaid, healthcare, rural hospital funding, healthcare insurance, education, law enforcement, infrastructure, investigating possible fraud within Medicaid and fracking.

County Manager Greg Martin advised Congressman Rouzer that Bladen County had begun the process of building a new detention center and intended to secure a low interest loan through the USDA. Congressman Rouzer stated that he was very familiar with USDA and congratulated the Board for its commitment.

Several Bladen County citizens were also in attendance. Mr. Charles DeVane shared his concerns regarding an unskilled work force in Bladen County. Mr. Mac Campbell shared his perspective as a business owner regarding the challenges faced in creating an expansion plan.

Congressman Rouzer encouraged support of local community college in establishing a skilled workforce through partnerships between local businesses and BCC.

Chairman Peterson thanked Congressman Rouzer for the time spent with the Board of County Commissioners, community business leaders and concerned citizens.

Congressman Rouzer thanked the Board for its time and attention. He stated that he was very serious about assisting Bladen County in any way.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk

Charles Ray Peterson, Chairman