

**June 2, 2014**

A special meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, June 2, 2014 at 5:00 pm regarding FY 2014-2015 Budget.

Members present:

James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Chairman  
Mark Gillespie, Vice-Chairman  
Delilah Blanks  
Billy Ray Pait  
Charles Peterson  
Daniel Dowless Arrived at 5:04pm  
Russell Priest  
Michael Cogdell  
Wayne Edge

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order and provided an invocation.

Chairman Smith recognized Clerk of Court Niki Dennis. Mrs. Dennis administered Oaths of Office to Commissioners Blanks and Priest as members of the Board of Equalization and Review.

**ITEM 1. A. Bladen Community College; Dr. William Findt, President**

Dr. Findt was joined by Vice President of Finance Jay Stanley, Board Chairman Hayes Petteway and Vice President for Instruction and Student Services/Executive Vice President Jeff Kornegay.

Dr. Findt stated his appreciation to the Board for its support, financial and otherwise, in the past. He shared information with the Board related to the College's budget request. Funding has been requested for a full-time position to provide security and a full-time position in housekeeping. The state has proposed a 2% increase in salaries, which was included in the budget request. Several capital projects were listed on the budget request, including a new heating system, repairs to a roof, and repairs to a collapsed culvert and walkway. The collapsed culvert and walkway was included in the proposed budget for a total of \$30,000. Dr. Findt indicated that the bids for that project may be considerably less than the requested amount of \$30,000.

Dr. Findt stated that he would research and submit additional information related to the requested positions.

**B. Bladen County Schools; Dr. Robert Taylor, Superintendent**

Dr. Taylor was joined by Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Tanya Head and Board of Education member Bonnell Walker. He thanked the Board for its time and consideration.

Dr. Taylor stated that letters had been mailed last week to the employees whose positions would be eliminated due to budget reductions. A total of 60.5 positions may be eliminated. In order to fund a 2% increase in salaries, as proposed by the General Assembly, Dr. Taylor stated that an additional \$100,000 would be needed. He also stated that in order to retain five teaching positions, seven teacher assistants, and 1.5 assistant principal positions, an additional \$560,000 would be needed.

Dr. Taylor stated that Bladen County Schools had made great progress with new programs. Specifically, he stated that the New Schools program would allow for high school graduates to earn up to 20 college credit hours. With the cost of a college education escalating, the opportunity for high school students to participate in the New Schools program will provide a great financial benefit.

June 2, 2014

**C. Forestry Service; Mike Hinson, County Ranger**

Mr. Hinson presented several handouts related to equipment and vehicles, as well as personnel matters, included in his budget request. He stated that there is an open position. The State of NC may decide to move the vacant position anywhere in the state, depending on need and necessity.

Mr. Hinson formally requested the county fund an additional \$17,000, bringing the County's 40% share to approximately \$172,000.

Mr. Hinson expressed his appreciation for the Board's time and consideration of his presentation.

**D. Building Inspections and 911 Addressing;  
Bradley Kinlaw, Emergency Services Director**

Mr. Kinlaw, representing Building Inspections Department requested consideration of \$28,600 for the purchase of a good used 4-wheel drive truck for better access into locations requiring inspections during construction.

Mr. Kinlaw also spoke on behalf of the GIS-911 Addressing department and their request for consideration of \$12,000 for the purchase of a used long-bed truck. Also, the plotter/printer which is capable of producing large maps is 12-13 years old and is at the end of its useful life. A budget request of \$15,000 was presented for the purchase of a new plotter.

**E. Board of Elections; Ray Britt, Chairman**

County Manager Greg Martin informed the Board of the Board of Elections' request for a full time position in the FY 2014-2015 budget. There has been a 600-hour, part-time position included in the budget proposal. Based on new compliance requirements, there will be a need to budget for new equipment for a total of \$177,000 by 2016. Formerly, grants were available for the purchase of new election equipment. However, funding for those grants is no longer available.

Mr. Martin also shared with the Board that he had met with Sheriff Benston earlier in the day to discuss various budgetary matters for the upcoming fiscal year. A Probe system for \$2,500, a camera for the women's cell and two additional vehicles is requested by the Sheriff.

Mr. Martin and Financial Officer Lisa Coleman prepared information related to changes since the May 20, 2014 Budget presentation for information. Mr. Martin provided an overview of the changes, noting the net change was a reduction of \$24,066 to the budget.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Peterson, seconded by Commissioner Blanks, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.

---

James G. Smith, Chairman

ATTEST:

---

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board