

June 1, 2015

A Special Meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, June 1, 2015 at 4:00 pm in the Commissioners Room, on the lower level of the Courthouse, Elizabethtown, NC. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget.

Members present were:

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman

Russell Priest, Vice Chairman

Delilah Blanks

Michael Cogdell

James G. "Jimmie" Smith

Daniel Dowless

Billy Ray Pait

Wayne Edge

Arthur Bullock

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order. Commissioner Dowless provided the invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 1. Comments/Requests Regarding FY 2015-2016 Proposed Budget

A. Bladen Community College: Dr. William Findt, President
Dr. Findt and Board of Trustees Chairman Dennis Troy expressed their appreciation to the Board for its continued financial support of the college.

B. Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Jim McVicker and Captain Jeff Singletary
Sheriff McVicker and Captain Singletary thanked the Board for its time and consideration including a proposed Information Technology (IT) position, of approximately \$40,000 annual salary, plus benefits. This position is requested to be filled during the construction of the new Detention and Law Enforcement Center in order for a successful candidate to be involved during the design and construction phase of the project.

Sheriff McVicker and Captain Singletary thanked the Board for its consideration.

C. Emergency Medical Services: David Howell, Chief
Mr. Howell thanked the Board for allowing time for additional requests for EMS. He made the Board aware of an ambulance with mechanical difficulties and associated issues. He asked the Board to consider budgeting for the purchase of a used ambulance and a remount ambulance for a total of \$108,500.

Mr. Howell provided an overview of the vehicle fleet and mileage of each vehicle.

D. Other Requests:
No one in attendance addressed the Board at this time.

ITEM 2. Budget Discussion

Chairman Peterson asked the Board for opinions regarding Bladen County Schools' current year request which is to be revisited during the Regular Meeting later in the afternoon.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to allocate an additional amount yet to be determined to Bladen County Schools from the General Fund Fund Balance. County Manager Greg Martin reviewed the proposed FY 2015-16 Budget allocation of \$6.6 million for the school system. He also provided an overview of the revenue streams earmarked for the school system; Capital Outlay Fund is funded by a portion of sales tax revenues.

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Following additional discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to consider reducing the FY 2015-16 Budget to the current year funding to Bladen County Schools.

Mr. Martin shared with the Board that currently there is not additional information available for an Economic Development update. He will contact Chuck Heustess and update the Board at a future meeting.

The county tax rate was discussed at length and the necessity to consider an increase in order to appropriately fund budget requests for critical services.

Chairman Peterson briefly recessed the meeting at 5:05pm.

Chairman Peterson reconvened the meeting at 5:32pm.

Chairman Peterson recognized Fire Marshal Bradley Kinlaw in attendance and provided an opportunity for him to address the Board regarding a request from White Lake Water Rescue.

Mr. Kinlaw thanked the Board for its time and consideration and introduced an additional budget request totaling \$5,500. Mr. Kinlaw substantiated the request by stating that Water Rescue has recently been requested to include land search components to its services. Mr. Kinlaw thanked the Board for the opportunity to present the budget request.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Edge, seconded by Commissioner Priest the Board adjourned at 5:35pm.

ATTEST:

Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman