

**August 17, 2015**

A Special Meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, August 17, 2015 at 12:00 pm in the Commissioners Room on the lower level of the Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was regarding Personnel Issues.

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

Attorneys: Leslie Johnson  
Allen Johnson

**ITEM I. Call to Order**

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order. Reverend Larry Hayes provided the invocation. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 2. Personnel Matter:**

Waiving the option to be heard in a Public Session in accordance with N.C. General Statute 105-294, Tax Administrator Chris Ellis requested to be heard in Closed Session

Upon a motion by Commissioner Priest, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board entered into Closed Session at 12:02pm in Accordance with N.C. General Statute 14-318.11(a)(6) Personnel.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Bullock, the Board re-entered Open Session at 12:39pm.

Mr. Peterson stated his intent to entertain a motion to terminate Mr. Ellis for good cause based on conduct unbecoming a Bladen County employee which created an adverse work environment in the Tax Office.

Commissioner Pait made a motion to terminate Tax Administrator Chris Ellis for good cause based on conduct unbecoming a Bladen County employee which created an adverse work environment in the Tax Office. Commissioner Edge provided the second.

Chairman Peterson called for discussion prior to a vote on the motion.

Dr. Blanks made a substitute motion calling for an investigation into the Revenue Department and reprimanding Mr. Ellis. Commissioner Cogdell provided the second. However, the motion was defeated by a vote of three AYES (Blanks, Cogdell, Bullock) to six NOES (Smith, Peterson, Priest, Dowless, Pait, Edge).

Chairman Peterson revisited the original motion by Commissioner Pait and seconded by Commissioner Edge. The Board voted to terminate Mr. Ellis for good cause based on conduct unbecoming a Bladen County employee which created an adverse work environments in the Tax Office and by a vote of six AYES (Pait, Edge, Smith, Peterson, Dowless) to three (3) NOES (Blanks, Cogdell, Bullock).

Chairman Peterson stated that it's very unfortunate for all concerned that circumstances have worked out as they have. Fortunately, we have capable Tax Office staff members who will continue to provide quality services to the citizens of Bladen County.

**August 17, 2015**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Pait, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, the Board adjourned at 12:40pm.

ATTEST:

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Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

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Charles R. Peterson, Chairman