

**May 21, 2015**

A Special Recessed Meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 4:38 pm Commissioners Room, 105 East Broad Street, Elizabethtown, NC. The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussing a proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget.

Members present were:

Charles R. Peterson, Chairman

Delilah Blanks

Michael Cogdell

James G. "Jimmie" Smith

Daniel Dowless

Billy Ray Pait

Wayne Edge

Excused:        Arthur Bullock  
                     Russell Priest

Chairman Peterson reconvened the recessed meeting.

The Board discussed staffing for the new Detention and Law Enforcement Center and the appropriate timing to begin the budget process for any additional needed staff. County Manager Greg Martin expressed his view to be proactive regarding budgeting for staffing needs. Commissioner Blanks asked about the technology to be used in the Detention Center and the expected efficiencies.

Department staffing levels were discussed, along with departments which have increased over the last 5-10 years based on either federal or state requirements.

EMS collection rates, as well as a recent increase in overtime, were discussed. County Manager Greg Martin stated that the County is affected by part-time staff when they reach 1,000 hours on a rolling 12-month period. It appears that a solution may be to hire more part-time EMS employees in order to maintain appropriate coverage.

The Board additionally discussed the Bladen County Schools' proposed FY 2015-2016 Budget.

Mr. Martin discussed that Fund Balance will likely be used in the current year to cover architectural fees. This amount will be reimbursed when the project is mortgaged by a USDA Rural Development loan.

Mr. Martin also informed the Board that currently there are no incubator buildings available in the county for industries looking to potentially relocate. Funding to assist Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc. is needed to assist in developing incubator buildings.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was recessed at 5:30 pm.

ATTEST:

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Maria C. Edwards, Clerk to the Board

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Charles R. Peterson, Chairman