

March 14, 2011

A special meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, March 14, 2011 at 6:00 pm for a Board Planning Session.

Members present were:

Charles Ray Peterson, Chairman  
 James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Vice Chairman  
 Lewis Tatum  
 Delilah Blanks  
 Mark Gillespie  
 Russell Priest  
 David Gooden  
 Daniel Dowless  
 Billy Ray Pait

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order.

County Manager Greg Martin introduced Craven Hudson, NC Cooperative Extension Director in Moore County as the facilitator for the workshop.

Mr. Hudson highlighted Bladen County's vision statement *To Provide Customer Focused Services Efficiently and Responsibly* during the workshop.

Mr. Hudson stated that to be successful in a planning session you must have guiding principles. The Commissioners selected the following principles:

- Full Participation
- Mutual Understanding
- Inclusive Solution
- Shared Responsibility

The Commissioners selected the following goals for the budget process:

- Make budget easier
- Budget within means
- Make it simple
- Balanced with no tax increase
- Prioritize community needs and Board can agree
- Budget that does not cut too deeply
- Fund Departments what is needed
- Improve Employee Morale
- Budget live and let live

Mr. Hudson went through several scenarios that the Commissioners may experience during the budget process:

- FY 2012 Budget Principles: (1) No tax increase (2) Balanced Budget (maybe less than FY2011); (3) Not using fund balance for recurring expenses; (4) Maximizing Employee Output.
- FY 2012 Realities: (1) Possible increase in health insurance premiums, fuel costs, retirement system contributions, and utilities; (2) State proposal to shift responsibility to the local level for replacement of school buses; mandate the counties to pay workers compensation on state employees in the school system and community colleges.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tatum, seconded by Commissioner Pait to adjourn at 9:05 pm.

ATTEST:



Sara S. West, Clerk



Charles Ray Peterson, Chairman