May 17, 2010

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, May 17, 2010 in Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse. The following members were present:

Billy Ray Pait, Chairman
Delilah Blanks, Vice Chairperson
W.D. Neill, Jr.
Lewis Tatum
Charles Ray Peterson
Daniel Dowless
David Gooden
Albert Beatty

Larry Smith, absent due to sickness

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

Chairman Pait called the meeting to order. Commissioner David Gooden provided the Invocation and County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 1. Upon a motion by Charles Ray Peterson seconded by David Gooden, the Board approved the following consent items:

A. Minutes of May 3, 2010 Regular Meeting
Minutes of May 10, 2010 Special Meeting.
B. Approve Agenda
C. Approve Budget Amendments

	Increase	**Decrease**
Health Department		
Exp: 105900.200	$ 4,085.41	
Supplies		
Rev: 103560.082 (HF82)	$ 4,085.41	
Fees – Hep B/Flu		
Exp: 10-5200.200	$ 1,000.00	
Supplies		
Exp: 10-5200.610	$ 1,449.00	
Contracted Services		
Rev: 103260.040 (AMCO)	$ 2,449.00	
Fees – Animal Control		
Emergency Medical Services		
Rev: 323190 014	$ 550,000.00	
USDA Loan Proceeds		
Rev: 322190 050	$ 550,000.00	
FBA		

D. County Attorney Invoices
a. $300.00, Retainer for the month of May
b. $450.00, "Green Edge" Project
E. Tax Refunds and Releases Docket #2010-104
F. $1,000.00 Appropriation to West Bladen FCCLA
G. Public Hearing for Monday, June 7, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. to receive comments regarding the FY 2010-2011 Proposed Budget
H. Capital Project Ordinance in the amount of $890,000.00 for EMS Facility Project

I. **County to provide funding to continue the Community Development Block Grant Housing Program until the County's audit is received by the State with the understanding that the State will provide reimbursement when the audit is completed.**

ITEM 2. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO COMMISSIONERS:

A. Chairman Pait recognized Coach Patty Evers and the East Bladen Ladies Basketball Team for an outstanding 2009-2010 Season. The Basketball Team and Coach were presented tee shirts to acknowledge their season as 2009-2010 2-A Eastern Regional Champions and 2-A State Runner Up.

B. Recognized Employees for Years of Service to Bladen County:
- Glorietta Barnes - Tax Department – 5 years
- Thomas Atkinson – Sheriff's Department – 5 years
- Elizabeth Blanks – Extension Service – 5 years
- Joe Lacewell – Vehicle Maintenance – 15 years
- Janice Hayes – Finance Department – 10 years
- Vertis McKoy – DOA Transportation – 5 years
- Michael Burney – Sheriff's Department – 5 years

C. Recognized the Bladen County Health Department as recipient of the Outstanding Public Health Award.

D. Miss Caitlyn Clark, a senior at West Bladen High School, performed an Extemporaneous Public Speaking Demonstration entitled "The FFA Society."

Charles Ray Peterson advised that he had a petition from a group requesting that a road be paved and also problem with the condition of Airport Road in Bladenboro.

ITEM 3. INDIVIDUALS/DELEGATIONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COMMISSIONERS:

Sharon Penny appeared before the Board on behalf of Superintendent of Bladen County Schools Gregory A. Killingsworth to request a transfer of $50,000.00 from capital outlay to the current expense account. These funds will be used to provide additional security through the Sheriff's Department at both high schools for the remainder of the school year due to the recent shooting incident that occurred at West Bladen High School. Upon a motion by Charles Peterson, seconded by Daniel Dowless, the Board approved the request.

Mr. Lloyd L. Breckenridge appeared before the Board to express his concern with the recent actions of Commissioner Delilah Blanks. Mr. Breckenridge stated that he was a thirty (30) year veteran of the Marine Corps serving in Korea and Viet Nam and took an oath in 1951 to uphold the Constitution of the United States. His purpose in appearing before the Board was two-fold: (1) Receive a public apology from Ms. Blanks, particularly for District 1; (2) ask for Ms. Blanks' resignation.

ITEM 4. Planning Department: (Greg Elkins, Director)

A. Public Hearing regarding Request to Rezone PIN # 131000579361. Chairman Pait declared the Public Hearing Opened and asked the public to offer comments.

Greg Elkins administered an Oath to Giles Clark, David Clark, Faye Collins and Dorothy Hamblick.

Giles Clark spoke of the Clark family using the land exclusively for agricultural and forestry purposes for more than seventy years. Recent times have seen substantial changes taking place with traditional land usage and this is true for this property and its surrounding area.

David Clark concurred with comments of Giles Clark and respectfully requested that the change of zoning classification be approved.

Faye Collins advised the Board that she was a homeowner adjacent to the property and was concerned if her taxes would increase. Tax Administrator Chris Ellis addressed her concern and advised that there would not be an adjustment to her property taxes at this time. However, during the re-evaluation of property scheduled for 2015 she may see an increase in her property value.

Dorothy Hamblick advised the Board that she owned property adjacent to the Clark property and has experienced problems with surveyor Lloyd Walker in which the land owned by Pleasant Grove United Holiness Church was surveyed and deed changed in 1988. She advised that the Church wanted the land back.

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Pait declared the Public Hearing closed.

B. Upon a motion by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by David Gooden the Board approved the Rezoning of PIN# 131000579361 from Residential Agriculture (RA) to Commercial (C) as it is consistent with the adopted 1999-2010 Bladen County Land Use Plan and the rezoning request is reasonable; and the rezoning request is in the pubic interest.

Commissioner Tatum commended the Board for its action in approving the request to rezone the property. He further stated that he hoped the Elizabethtown Town Council would change the zoning on adjacent properties on the 87 by-pass to encourage growth in order to create more jobs and increase the tax base.

C. Greg Elkins introduced Grace Lawrence, WLPP Program Director. Ms. Lawrence requested the Commissioners to endorse the Bladen County Working Lands Protection Plan. The Board was advised that there were farmers from Bladen County on the Committee that had reviewed the Plan. Upon a motion by Lewis Tatum, seconded by Delilah Blanks, the Board endorsed the Bladen County Working Lands Protection Plan.

ITEM 5. FINANCE:

Lisa Coleman provided the results of the Request for Proposals for audit services for the Fiscal Years ending June 30, 2010, June 30, 2011 and June 30, 2012. Ms. Coleman requested to remain with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., PA at an annual cost of $39,500.00 per year.

Upon a motion by W. D. Neil, seconded by Lewis Tatum, the Board approved the audit services of Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., PA by a vote of 8 AYES (David Gooden, Larry Smith, Delilah Blanks, Billy Ray Pait, Albert Beatty, Daniel Dowless, W. D. Neill, Jr., and Lewis Tatum) to 1 NO (Charles Ray Peterson).

ITEM 6. BLADEN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT: (Randy Garner, Director)

A. Upon a motion by Delilah Blanks, seconded by Lewis Tatum, the Board entered session as the Bladen County Water District Board of Directors.

B. Upon a motion by Delilah Blanks, seconded by David Gooden, the Board approved the Engineering Agreement with Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates, P. A. for Phase III-B Expansion.

C. Upon a motion by W. D. Neill, seconded by Daniel Dowless, the Board exited session as the Bladen County Water District Board of Directors.

ITEM 7. COUNTY MANAGER: (Greg Martin)

A. Mr. Martin reviewed the calendar for upcoming events.

B. Mr. Martin presented the Insurance proposals received. Upon a motion by W. D. Neill and seconded by Charles Ray Peterson, the Board approved NCACC Risk Management Pool as the provider of Workers Compensation and Property and Liability coverage and Lacy West Insurance as the provider of Dental, Vision, and Short Term Disability coverage.

C. Mr. Martin requested that the Board schedule a Special Budget Meeting to provide an opportunity for departments and agencies, such as the School System and Bladen Community College, to address the Board regarding Budget requests. Upon a motion by W. D. Neill, seconded by David Gooden, the Board scheduled a Special Meeting for Monday, May 24, 2010 at 5:30 pm.

D. Mr. Martin presented the Proposed FY 2011 Budget:

- Proposed General Fund Budget of $35,917.494, a 6.5% decrease from FY 2010
- Ad valorem tax rate remains $0.74 per $100 valuation
- Maintain Current Expense funding for Public Schools and Community College
- Provides funding to maintain existing service levels.

Charles Ray Peterson asked how citizens get by without paying their motor vehicle tax and requested that the Board be given a response. Tax Administrator Chris Ellis will provide a report back to the Board.

Commissioner Peterson suggested that the Board consider giving an additional day off to employees to increase morale.

E. Upon a motion by W. D. Neill, seconded by Lewis Tatum, the Board entered Closed Session in accordasnce with N. C. G. S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) Attorney-Client Privilege

Upon a motion by Lewis Tatum, seconded by W. D. Neill the Board exited Closed Session and re-entered Open Session.

Upon a motion by David Gooden, seconded by Albert Beatty, the Board approved to accept an offer of $350,000 for the Fitness Center Property and to initiate the upset bid process by a vote of 6 AYES (David Gooden, Delilah Blanks, Billy Ray Pait, Albert Beatty, Daniel Dowless and W. D. Neil) to 2 NAYS (Charles Ray Peterson and Lewis Tatum.)

Mr. Tatum and Mr. Peterson were against both proposals submitted to the Board.

Upon a motion by David Gooden, seconded by Albert Beatty, the Board approved to adjourn at 9:35 pm.

Billy R. Pait

Billy Ray Pait, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Sara S. West

Sara S. West, Clerk