

**May 30, 2011**

A special meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, May 30, 2011 at 6:00 pm regarding FY 2011-2012 Budget.

Members present were:

Charles Ray Peterson, Chairman  
 James G. "Jimmie" Smith, Vice Chairman  
 Lewis Tatum  
 Delliah Blanks  
 Mark Gillespie  
 David Gooden  
 Daniel Dowless  
 Russel Priest  
 Billy Ray Pait - arrived at 6:15 pm

Others present: Gregory J. Martin, Robert Mazur, and Lisa Coleman

Chairman Peterson called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was held to commemorate Memorial Day followed with an invocation by Commissioner Dowless. County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEM 1. Adjustments to Proposed Budget:**

- County Manager Greg Martin advised the Board that staff has adjusted the FY 2011-2012 proposed budget as follows:
- A. Loan to Bladen's Bloomin Agri Industrial (BBAI) in the amount of \$560,000 for the DMV Call-Center Expansion approved by the Board on May 16, 2011.
  - B. Fund Balance Appropriation of \$1,529,808, which includes \$560,000 loan to BBAI for DMV Call-Center.

**ITEM 2. Matters for Consideration:**

- A. State Health Plan - Mr. Martin advised the Board that the State has proposed a 5.3 percent increase for FY 2011-12 and an additional 5.3 percent increase for FY 2012-2013 in the State Health Plan. The State proposes that employees pay \$21.72 per person per month. The proposed County budget includes funding for the full premium.
- B. Hiring Freeze – Discontinue as of July 1, 2011.
- C. Unemployment –Employment Security Commission Representatives have recommended that the County transition to 120 percent reimbursement method in order to have a greater ability to costs. Board to consider at a later date.
- D. Employee Bonus – The Board directed staff to increase the holiday bonus from \$100 to \$150.00 per employee.

**ITEM 3. Budget Requests – May 23, 2011:**

The Board discussed budget requests from various departments and agencies. Upon a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Priest, the Board approved to add the following amounts to the appropriation included to the proposed budget:

- A. Bladen Community College - One time contribution of \$90,000 to renovate library and \$10,000 operating expenses.
- B. Bladen County Schools - One time contribution of \$250,000 with intent to provide assistance in dealing with budgetary impacts on lower grades.
- C. Department of Social Services - \$30,224.00 for clerical position at the Joblink Center on Mercer Mill Road to serve the Department of Social Services, Bladen County Joblink Center and Bladen Community College.
- D. Emergency Services - \$5,000 for 300 additional hours for part time staff.
- E. Coroner – \$600.00 for travel expense.

May 30, 2011

**ITEM 4. Other:**

- Chairman Peterson requested Greg Martin to contact Sheriff Benston for information regarding the operation of the Firing Range.
- Redistricting meeting scheduled for Monday June 6, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.
- The Board agreed for Mr. Martin to prepare a letter to Representative William Brisson and Senator Wesley Meredith regarding the proposed budget cuts to the Community Development Block Grant Scattered Site Housing Program from \$400,000 to \$250,000 every three (3) years.
- Mr. Martin stated that he had discussed the request for a special session of Superior Court with Resident Superior Court Judge Douglas B. Sasser. Judge Sasser recommended that this request be withdrawn. The Board agreed for Mr. Martin to prepare a letter to withdraw the request.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tatum, seconded by Commissioner Dowless, and approved to adjourn at 6:45 pm.

  
Charles Ray Peterson, Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Gregory M. Martin, Deputy Clerk