

May 31, 2010

A Special Meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, May 31, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in Room G8 of the Bladen County Courthouse, Elizabethtown, North Carolina. The purpose of the meeting was to review the FY 2011 Proposed Budget.

The following members were present:

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

Not present: Larry Smith

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

County Manager Greg Martin reviewed proposed staff revisions to the proposed budget, including a required increase in the Local Government Employees Retirement System contribution for Life Insurance coverage and funding for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. The net increase in the budget is \$4,596.00.

The Board reviewed the Department of Social Services' request for seven additional positions and a position reclassification. Upon considerable conversation regarding the matter, it was requested that DSS Director June Koenig meet with the Board at the next budget meeting to further discuss the need for additional positions and to discuss the need to create efficiencies in the department during the upcoming fiscal year.

The budget request for Bladen County Schools was reviewed. Commissioner Peterson expressed support for increasing the appropriation by \$500,000.00.

The Health Department's budget request was reviewed. Upon considerable conversation regarding the budget, it was requested that Health Director Wayne Stewart meet with the Board at the next budget meeting to further discuss the budget request.

The need for replacement vehicles was discussed for the Tax Department, Emergency Management, Building Inspections and Solid Waste. General Services Manager Robert Mazur presented a plan, for which funding is included in the proposed budget, that would provide him a vehicle allowance and his vehicle could in-turn be transferred to Building Inspections. The Board agreed with this proposal and further agreed for the County Manager and General Services Manager to address the need for dependable vehicles in the other departments.

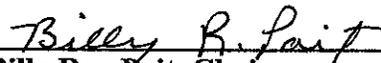
The County Manager updated the Board on Clarkton Rescue Squad's recent call response activity.

There was discussion regarding a request from the Board of Elections for a salary increase for Elections Director Larry Hammond. Salary information for department heads was requested.

There was discussion regarding the provision of an additional day off for employees during the upcoming fiscal year. On a motion by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by David Gooden, the Board approved an additional day of leave time for Bladen County employees (excluding department heads) during the upcoming fiscal year. The motion was approved by a vote of five AYES (Peterson, Gooden, Pait, Beatty, and Dowless) to three NOES (Blanks, Neill, and Tatum).

Commissioner Peterson requested that the County Manager provide information to the Board regarding a time/efficiency study of County departments.

Board members discussed the possible benefit of additional revenue associated with a proposed Article 46 Sales Tax. Upon a motion by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by David Gooden, the Board approved for the citizens of Bladen County to vote, during the General Election in November 2010, on a one quarter cent local option sales and use tax increase in the sales tax rate. Chairman Pait recessed the meeting until Monday, June 7, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.


Billy Ray Pait, Chairman

ATTEST:


Gregory J. Martin, Deputy Clerk

May 31, 2010

The May 31, 2010 Special Meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was reconvened on Monday, June 7, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in Room G8 of the Bladen County Courthouse, Elizabethtown, North Carolina. The purpose of the meeting was to review the FY 2011 Proposed Budget.

The following members were present:

Billy Ray Pait, Chairman
Delilah Blanks, Vice-Chairperson
W. D. Neill, Jr.
Daniel Dowless
David Gooden
Albert Beatty
Charles Ray Peterson
Lewis Tatum
Larry Smith (*arrived at 6:18 p.m.*)

Chairman Pait called the meeting to order.

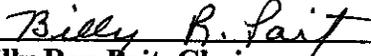
Department of Social Services Director June Koenig reviewed the Department of Social Services' request for seven additional positions and a position reclassification. She discussed the possibility of using Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) grant funding for positions until September 30, 2010. Chairman Pait indicated that the Board would give consideration to the request.

Health Director Wayne Stewart met with the Board regarding the budget request. He indicated that State funding reductions may require the elimination of two positions in the Health Department. He stated that he will talk with DSS Director June Koenig to determine if the two employees whose positions may be eliminated would be eligible for the positions requested in the Department of Social Services. Mr. Stewart provided clarification regarding the requested Animal Shelter Manager position.

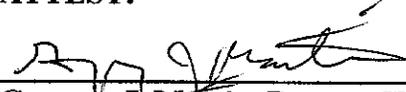
Tax Administrator Chris Ellis provided a report to the Board regarding motor vehicle tax collections. He explained the billing cycle and challenges associated with the current year tax collection rate. He discussed the fact that even though a high percentage of vehicle taxes are not collected in the current year due, a high percentage is collected within a few years. He stated that the Tax Department is taking measures to improve the collection rate.

Bladen County Schools Superintendent Greg Killingsworth addressed the Board regarding a revised budget request. The school system its request for new funding from \$1.4 million to \$500,000.00 and requesting approval by the Board of Commissioners to transfer \$1 million from the Schools' Capital Outlay Fund to its Current Expense Fund. Mr. Killingsworth reviewed the impact of State budget reductions on the School System operations which would occur in the event that additional County funding is not received.

Due to the upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting scheduled for 6:30 p.m., a motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by W.D. Neill, Jr., to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.


Billy Ray Pait, Chairman

ATTEST:


Gregory J. Martin, Deputy Clerk