

APRIL 16, 2007

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Margaret Lewis-Moore, Chairperson
Billy Ray Pait, Vice Chairperson
Lewis Tatum
Delilah Blanks
Larry Smith
W. D. Neill Jr.
James G. Smith
Greg Taylor
Charles Ray Peterson

Attorney: Wes Johnson, Johnson Law firm

Chairperson Moore called the meeting to order. Chairperson Moore provided the invocation, and County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Billy Ray Pait and approved to adopt the following Consent Items:

- A. Approve Minutes: April 2, 2007 (Regular Session)**
- B. Approve Agenda**
- C. Approve Budget Amendments:**

	Increase	Decrease
<u>EMS</u>		
Expenditures:		
325300.110 Telephone	\$1,000.00	
325300.331 Medical Supplies	\$15,000.00	
325300.330 Supplies	\$2,000.00	
325300.360 Uniforms	\$1,000.00	
325300.580 Schools & Meetings	\$50.00	
Revenue: 323360.010 Billing Revenue	\$19,050.00	
<u>Health Department</u>		
Exp. 105905.741 Capital Outlay Vehicles	\$20,512.05	
Rev. 103190.010 Misc. Revenue	\$20,512.05	
Exp. 105960.330 Supplies	\$8,540.00	
Rev. 103530.080 DHHS-Health Promot.	\$8,540.00	
Exp. 105905.330 Supplies	\$2,220.60	
Rev. 103330.061 DENR-Envir. Health	\$2,220.60	
Exp. 105931.210 Building Rental	\$2,000.00	
Rev. 103530.170 Smart Start	\$2,000.00	
<u>Sheriff</u>		
Expenditures:		
105100.360 Uniforms	\$4,000.00	
105110.360 Uniforms		\$1,600.00
105100.580 Schools	\$600.00	
105100.330 Supplies		\$4,000.00
105100.160 Maint/Equip.	\$1,000.00	
105100.140 Travel	\$2,000.00	
105100.060 Insurance		\$2,000.00

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Expenditures:

105100.330 Supplies	\$5,800.00	
105110.350 Laundry	\$5,000.00	
105110.470 Food	\$20,000.00	
105110.740 Capital	\$1,500.00	
106800.540 Insurance/Bonds		\$32,300.00

Social Services

Exp. 146100.020 Salaries & Wages		\$30,000.00
Rev. 143190.010 Misc. Revenue		\$30,000.00

Exp. 146100.740 Capital Outlay – Equip.	\$30,000.00	
Rev. 143190.010 Misc. Revenue	\$2,600.00	
Rev. 143550.080 FM-General Fund	\$27,400.00	

D. Approve County Attorney Invoices:	April Retainer	\$300.00
	Zoning Violation	\$310.00

E. Schedule Public Hearing – Voluntary Agricultural Districts Ordinance:
May 21, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

F. Approve Resolution in Memory of Wayne Howard Sr.:

WHEREAS, George Wayne Howard was born on July 25, 1928 to Clarence and Florence Howard; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard, a resident of the Garland community, was married to Jane Coble Howard for fifty-three years and to this union three children were born, Wayne Howard Jr., Clara Howard Johnson, and Myra Howard Johnson; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard died on Wednesday, March 21, 2007; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard was a man of great character dedicated to his family, church, and community and was a farmer for the vast majority of his life; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard was a life-time member of Antioch United Methodist Church and served in various capacities throughout the years; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Howard was a devoted public servant who served on the 7th Congressional District Agriculture Advisory Committee. Mr. Howard also served on the Bladen Community College Board of Trustees, Bladen County Economic Development Commission, and was a Farm Bureau Board Member. Mr. Howard was affiliated with the USDA Farm Service Agency for many years as an employee, County Committeeman, and Community Committeeman and in 2002, received the *Bladen County Agriculture and Business Expo Service to Agriculture Award*.

WHEREAS, the people of Bladen County have, by his death, lost a great friend, and a valued member of the community; and for his contributions to the improvements in the quality of life in this County, he will long be remembered in Bladen County; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on behalf of the people of Bladen County, the Board of County Commissioners does hereby express to the family of Mr. George Wayne Howard, its heartfelt belief that the memory of his good works and character will be and remain an inspiration to many and a blessing to all;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, bearing the seal of the County of Bladen, shall be presented to the family of George Wayne Howard in the name of the people of Bladen County.

Adopted this 16th Day of April, 2007.

- Commissioner James G. Smith expressed concerns regarding the response of two ambulances to emergency situations when one vehicle is in route to the scene. Mr. Smith referenced a recent event wherein two ambulances were in response. He indicated that his concern was based on the high cost of gasoline and that if there is a need for a second response vehicle, then that is fine with him.

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Commissioner Charles Ray Peterson who serves on the EMS Advisory Council responded to Mr. Smith's concerns. He indicated that the decision to send a County response vehicle in addition to the volunteers' vehicle was made by the EMS Advisory Council. Mr. Peterson further advised that once the volunteers' vehicle gets in route, then the County vehicle will be called off and that the procedure only applies to hot calls.

The Commissioners asked County Manager Greg Martin to check on the matter and provide follow-up information.

- Commissioner W. D. Neill Jr. referred to the upcoming district meeting in Laurinburg and information contained in the agenda packet. He encouraged fellow Board members to check with legislators regarding the various topics.
- Chairperson Margaret Lewis-Moore referenced Cape Fear RC&D and its approach to funding. She encouraged the Board's support in the initiative to have grants written for the Spaulding Monroe area.

ITEM 2. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO COMMISSIONERS:

Chairperson Moore called on Mr. George Wayne Howard's family to step forward to receive the adopted resolution. Ms. Moore presented the resolution on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and read it aloud to the audience.

ITEM 3. INDIVIDUALS/DELEGATIONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COMMISSIONERS:

Mr. Ron Taylor addressed the Board regarding information concerning the Resolution of Intent to Lease, Sell, or Convey Bladen County Hospital. Mr. Taylor expressed concerns about the Intent and advised that he is against selling the hospital. Mr. Taylor indicated that he didn't know what direction the hospital needed to move toward, but did not think selling it was the answer. He advised that he had confidence in the hospital's leadership, but in his opinion, there are other ways to maintain Bladen County Hospital. Mr. Taylor further advised that the citizens of the County need to get more involved and provide their input on the matter.

Chairperson Moore expressed appreciation to Mr. Taylor for his comments and invited his continued involvement in matters regarding the hospital.

ITEM 4. ELIZABETHTOWN AIRPORT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION PRESENTATION: Chairman Fred Tate advised that the Elizabethtown Airport is on the cover of the Airport Guide for Airports in North Carolina publication. Mr. Tate advised that he attended the meeting in order to present a framed copy of the publication to the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Tate distributed copies of the publication to the Board and staff.

Chairperson Moore thanked Mr. Tate for the airport guides and extended appreciation to Mr. Tate and the Elizabethtown Airport, Economic Development Commission for its diligence in promoting the airport.

ITEM 5. SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH:

Southeastern Regional Mental Health representative Kathy Baker addressed the Board regarding a draft 2007-2010 Local Business Plan that was included in the agenda packet. She discussed the Plan's content regarding items in the Cost Model that the State requires of Southeastern Regional Mental Health. She further advised that the document also

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outlines major goals that the Local Management Agency will work to achieve during the next three years. Ms. Baker indicated that the plan was developed by utilizing not only the Cost Model, but also input from community stakeholders. She advised that meetings were held in Bladen County and Robeson County for the purpose of receiving feedback. Ms. Baker asked for the Board's approval of the local business plan. After discussion by the Board, the following action was taken: **A motion was made by Billy Ray Pait, seconded by Greg Taylor to approve the Southeastern Regional Mental Health's FY 2007-2010 Local Business Plan. The vote was unanimous.**

ITEM 6. BLADEN COUNTY HOSPITAL:

Chief Executive Officer David Masterson addressed the Board regarding hospital matters and its financial status. He advised that the vulnerabilities of the current situation of Bladen County Hospital provide a significant risk to the ability of the county to continue to support the hospital in its current state as an enterprise unit of the county. He further advised that the county should consider the advantages of having a shared control in exchange for new investment that will not only maintain the hospital for Bladen County but will allow the hospital to expand to its fullest potential in collaboration with a partner organization. Mr. Masterson advised that this is an opportunity for the county that is not offered for any other sub-unit, department, or enterprise unit of the county, making the hospital a unique situation and opportunity for Bladen County. Mr. Masterson asked for questions and comments from the Board of Commissioners.

Various comments were made and the fact that the commissioners did not like the word "Sell" regarding the hospital affiliation process. Discussion was held regarding the fact that the Board is only looking at options and no final decisions are being made relevant to the sale of the hospital. Commissioner Delilah Blanks referenced the fact that the Town of East Arcadia was not included on the map included in the Request for Proposals. Mr. Masterson advised that he would amend the RFP to include East Arcadia. The following action was taken: **A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by W. D. Neill Jr. and approved to adopt the Resolution Declaring the Intent to Lease, Sell, or Convey Bladen County Hospital and to schedule a public hearing on the Resolution for Monday, May 7, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.**

ITEM 7. HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Health Director Wayne Stewart requested consideration by the Board to approve Bad Debt Write Off for FY 2005-2006. He indicated that the accounts have had no activity in the past year and are deemed as bad debt. Mr. Stewart indicated that the individuals who have a \$50 or greater balance will be forwarded to the County Finance Office to be placed on the County Debt Set-off Program. **A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Greg Taylor to approve the Health Department's Bad Debt Write Off for FY 05-06. The vote was unanimous.**

ITEM 8. ADVISORY BOARDS:

- A. Library Board – A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by W. D. Neill Jr. and approved to appoint Credde Graham to the Bladen County Library Board. The term is effective immediately and will expire December 31, 2009. Ms. Graham is filling the seat that Irene Creech declined.**

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Keep Bladen Beautiful – A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Billy Ray Pait and approved to table the appointment to the Keep Bladen Beautiful Advisory Board.

ITEM 9. COUNTY MANAGER:

- A. Calendar Update – County Manager Greg Martin reviewed upcoming calendar events with the Board and reminded them of the SEDC annual meeting scheduled for April 24, 2007 in Dunn; County Assembly Day – May 2, 2007, and Board of Equalization & Review – May 7, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.**
- B. Consider Awarding Bid to Install Water Main Extension for Proposed Ag-Civic Center – A motion was made by Billy Ray Pait, seconded by Delilah Blanks and approved to award bid for water main extension regarding proposed Ag-Civic Center to lowest bidder (as recommended by Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates, P.A.) to Utilities Plus, Inc. in the amount of \$46,650.68.**

A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Margaret Lewis-Moore, Chairperson
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Kathy P. Britt, Clerk