

August 6, 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 Chairman
Lewis Tatum
Delilah B. 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. Commissioner Greg Taylor provided the Invocation and County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 1. CONSENT ITEMS:

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

- A. Approve Minutes: July 23, 2007 (Regular Session)**
- B. Approve Agenda**
- C. Approve Budget Amendments or Transfers Department Budgets:**

	Increase	Decrease
<u>Social Services</u>		
Exp. 146100.649 Share the Warmth		\$398.14
Rev. 143530.222 Share the Warmth		\$398.14
<u>DSS</u>		
Exp. 146100.573 DSS-System of Care		\$57,633.00
Rev. 143550.080 Fm – General Fund		\$57,633.00
<u>Animal Control</u>		
Exp. 105200.740 Capital Outlay	\$300,000.00	
Rev. 103190.050 FBA	\$300,000.00	
<u>Social Services</u>		
Exp. 146100.651 Energy Neighbor Fund		\$3,090.72
Rev. 143530.031 Energy Neighbor Fund		\$3,090.72

- D. Approve County Attorney Invoice:**
 - Failure to Apply for Public Animal Shelter Facility Certification \$150.00**
- E. Approve Appointment of Mr. Dalton Dockery as Cooperative Extension Director**
- F. Approve Agreement with the State of North Carolina for the Protection, Development and Improvement of Forest Land in Bladen County**

ITEM 2. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO COMMISSIONERS

- Introduction of Mr. Dalton Dockery by Dr. Danny Shaw, Extension Service District Director**

Dr. Danny Shaw thanked the Board members for their support and introduced Dalton Dockery, Bladen County Cooperative Extension Director. He stated that Mr. Dockery had 15 years of experience with Cooperative Extension, having previously worked in Bladen County and Columbus County as an Extension Agent. He then thanked Sandra Kelly Cain for her leadership as Interim County Extension Director.

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Mr. Dalton Dockery thanked the Board members for their confidence in him and said he looked forward to working in Bladen County and being part of the Bladen County community.

- Commissioner Peterson asked Greg Martin and Chuck Heustess to check into the possibility of giving the farmers a property tax break.

ITEM 3. INDIVIDUALS/DELEGATIONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSIONERS:

- Mr. Floyd Edge addressed the Board with a concern as to how his property taxes were figured. The Board asked Greg Martin to meet with Mr. Edge to help resolve his question.
- Ms. Wanda Martin asked the Board members what they were doing about a homeless shelter in Bladen County. She advised that she was on the street with a child. She also stated that the county needs a methadone clinic. She further stated that school teachers need cell phones.

Dr. Blanks advised that she would call the Bladen County Social Services Director the next morning and suggested that Ms. Martin call also to see what could be done about processing her public housing application. Dr. Blanks said that the Board was looking at a shelter for the homeless and that United Way Director Tammy Armstrong was seeking federal assistance.

**ITEM 4. BLADEN AREA RURAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM:
(Joan Allen, Director)**

A. Public Hearing Regarding Rural Operating Assistance Program

Chairperson Moore declared the public hearing open.

No comments were received.

Chairperson Moore declared the public hearing closed.

B. Approve Rural Operating Assistance Program

On a motion made by Commissioner Billy Ray Pait and seconded by Commissioner Greg Taylor, the Board approved the Rural Operating Assistance Program which includes the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Program, the Work First/Employment Program and Rural General Public for the period of July 1, 2007 thru June 30, 2008.

ITEM 5. PLANNING: (Greg Elkins, Director)

A. Public Hearing Regarding Request to Rezone Property Identified by PIN 0365-05-18-9149 from Residential-Agricultural (RA) to Commercial (C)

Chairperson Moore declared the public hearing open.

Mr. Dan Richardson addressed the Board regarding the possible effect the rezoning will have on his church. After privately talking with Mr. Marvin Croson, Mr. Richardson stated the group was fine with the rezoning.

There were no other comments and Chairperson Moore declared the public hearing closed.

B. Consider Approving Rezoning Request

On a motion made by Commissioner Charles Ray Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Smith, the Board unanimously approved the rezoning of property identified by PIN 0365-05-18-9149 from Residential-Agricultural (RA) to Commercial (C) and this rezoning request is consistent with the adopted 1999-2010 Bladen County Land Use Plan; and the rezoning request is reasonable; and the rezoning is in the public interest.

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ITEM 6. GENERAL SERVICES: (Robert Mazur, Director)

▪ Consider Proposed Project Regarding Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract

Mr. Dave Holmes and Mr. Richard Self addressed the Board and informed them that the law had changed and it might now be feasible for Bladen County to develop a feasible Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract. The project would allow Bladen County to borrow money to install more efficient lighting, water devices and heating and air controls, with the guarantee that annual energy savings would cover the annual loan payments.

After discussion by the Board, the following action was taken: **A motion was made by Greg Taylor, seconded by Delilah Blanks and approved to move forward with the required process associated with the Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract project.**

ITEM 7. EMERGENCY SERVICES: (Mitchell Byrd, Director)

▪ Consider Request Regarding Positions

On a motion made by Charles Ray Peterson and seconded by W. D. Neill, Jr., the Board unanimously approved the EMS billing processor position as a full time position and approved a part time fire inspector position.

ITEM 8. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT: (Sheriff Steve Bunn)

A. Discuss Radio Traffic Protocol

Sheriff Steve Bunn addressed the Board regarding concerns about names of cities being announced over the airway. He explained that information gathered for 911 calls included who, what, when and where. Sheriff Bunn advised that he would revisit the process in an effort to maintain confidentiality when possible.

B. Discuss Drug Task Force

Sheriff Bunn advised the Board that the Drug Task Force works.

Addition to the agenda:

C. Sheriff 's Department Request for Nine New Vehicles

On a motion made by Dr. Delilah Blanks, seconded by Billy Ray Pait, the Board approved accepting sealed bids for nine Ford Crown Victoria police interceptor patrol cars and authorized County Manager Greg Martin to open sealed bids and award contract on August 24, 2007, at 2 p. m.

ITEM 9. ADVISORY BOARDS:

▪ Senior Center Advisory Board

On a motion made by Billy Ray Pait and seconded by Lewis Tatum, the Board approved the appointments of John McNeil (White Oak), Virginia Gause (Lisbon), Ester Lesane (Tar Heel), Laura Blount (Dublin), Fannie Grange (Council), William James (Elizabethtown), Janice Corbett (Kelly), Jane Howard (Ammon), Marvin McEachern (Clarkton), Dewitt Kennedy (Bladenboro) and Juanita Hill () to serve on the Bladen County Senior Center Advisory Council.

ITEM 10. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Chuck Heustess, Director)

A. Consider Lease Agreement and Memorandum of Lease with The State of North Carolina regarding a new JobLink Career Center

On a motion made by Greg Taylor and seconded by Billy Ray Pait, the Board approved a lease agreement between the County of Bladen and the State of North Carolina regarding the JobLink Career Center.

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**B. Consider Lease Agreement with Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc.
Regarding JobLink Career Center**

On a motion made by Dr. Delilah Blanks and seconded by W. D. Neill, Jr., the Board approved a lease agreement between Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc. and the County of Bladen regarding the JobLink Career Center.

ITEM 11. COUNTY MANAGER: (Greg Martin)

- County Manager Greg Martin informed the Board that the first Monday in September (the regular meeting date) is Labor Day.

On a motion made by W. D. Neill, Jr. and seconded by Billy Ray Pait, the Board rescheduled the date of the Board of Commissioners first meeting in September to Tuesday, September 4, 2007, at 6:30 p.m.

- A. Calendar Update** - Mr. Martin reviewed the following upcoming calendar events:
- August 16, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m. - Committee of 100 Annual Dinner, Presbyterian Church
 - August 16-19, 2007 - NCACC Conference
 - August 20, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m. - Board of Commissioners meeting
 - August 28, 2007 @ 6:00 p.m. - Hospital Board of Trustees meeting
 - August 28, 2007 @ 7:00 p.m. - MCAB Meeting, Lu-Mil
 - September 03, 2007 - Labor Day Holiday
 - September 04, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m. - Board of Commissioners meeting
 - September 17, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m. - Board of Commissioners meeting
 - September 25, 2007 @ 6:00 p.m. - Hospital Board of Trustees meeting

B. Consider Closed Session in Accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6) Personnel

A motion was made by Billy Ray Pait, seconded by W.D. Neill, Jr., and approved to enter Closed Session.

A motion was made by Delilah Blanks, seconded by Larry Smith, and approved to enter Open Session.

Emergency Services Director Mitchell Byrd provided follow-up information to the Board regarding estimated revenues for East Arcadia Fire District. The information indicated that the Fire District should receive more revenue in Fiscal Year 2008 than in Fiscal Year 2007.

County Manager Greg Martin distributed and reviewed information regarding projected Medicaid savings associated with recent legislation approved by the North Carolina General Assembly which provides a phase out of the counties' share of Medicaid costs.

A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by W.D. Neill, Jr., and approved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Margaret Lewis-Moore, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Gregory J. Martin, Deputy Clerk