

JUNE 4, 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

Vice Chairman Pait called the meeting to order and advised that Chairperson Moore would be arriving later. Commissioner Peterson led 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 Larry Smith and approved to adopt the following Consent Items:

- A. Approve Minutes: May 21, 2007**
- B. Approve Agenda:**
- C. Approve Budget Amendments:**

	Increase	Decrease
<u>Economic Development</u>		
Exp. 117200.001 One NC Fund	\$12,500.00	
Rev. 113700.002 One NC Fund	\$12,500.00	
<u>Cooperative Extension</u>		
Exp. 106805.029 Gov One-on-One	\$6.08	
Rev. 103230.018 Gov One-on-One	\$6.08	
<u>Social Services</u>		
Exp. 146100.651 Energy Neighbor Fund	\$344.54	
Rev. 143530.031 Energy Neighbor Fund	\$344.54	
Exp. 146100.649 Share the Warmth	\$600.00	
Rev. 143530.222 Share the Warmth	\$600.00	
Exp. 146160.455 Caring for Kids	\$151.50	
Rev. 143530.344 Caring for Kids	\$151.50	
<u>Emergency Services</u>		
Exp. 415080.570 Misc. Exp.	\$51,000.00	
Rev. 413290.020 FBA	\$51,000.00	

- D. Approve County Attorney/Hospital Affiliation Invoices:**
 - Turkey Operation \$675.00
 - Mavis McLamb \$750.00
 - Wyrick Robbins \$8,683.90
- E. Approve Clean Water Act Resolution:**

WHEREAS, North Carolina's continued prosperity depends on protecting the State's water resources for current use and future generations; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina is expected to grow by 3.5 million people to exceed 12 million by the year 2030, placing pressures on the State's water resources and local water providers; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina's businesses, traditional and emerging industries all depend on reliable supplies of clean water, reasonable utility costs, well maintained water infrastructure and an attractive natural environment; and,

WHEREAS, the 1998 Clean Water Bonds delivered significant benefits to North Carolina communities and citizens, supporting 1,103 projects in 97 counties, which

- Helped create or retain 42,000 jobs
- Corrected major regulatory violations in 97 communities
- Addressed failing septic systems and contaminated wells in 59 counties
- Resulted in 50 communities receiving sewer service for the first time
- Encouraged regional efficiencies, sound planning and conservation practices; and,

WHEREAS, North Carolina's public water, sewer and storm water utilities will require investments totaling \$16.63 billion to keep pace with necessary improvements and population growth over the next 25 years, including \$6.85 billion in investments within the next five years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Bladen, North Carolina General Assembly to enact the "Clean Water Act of 2007", which provides for a \$500 million bond issue to be expended over the next five years, and an annual appropriation of \$50 million in recurring funding to address urgent needs.

E. Approve Tar Heel Fire District Request to Transfer \$50,100 from Cash Management Account:

ITEM 2. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO COMMISSIONERS:

- Solid Waste Matter - Commissioner Greg Taylor discussed a matter regarding a twelve mile distance from Lagoon to a Solid Waste Convenience Center. The County Manager was asked to follow-up with the General Services Manager on the matter.
- Information Regarding Turkey Houses – Health Director Wayne Stewart and Health Board Chairman Randy Harris updated the Board on findings from a recent visit to an established turkey farm. Mr. Harris indicated that the farm they visited was a high tech facility and was monitored by a computer. Discussion was held regarding the disposal of waste from the houses and its effect on the surrounding areas. The gentlemen also discussed minimum setbacks and information that would be appropriate for inclusion in a Health Rule. Commissioner Blanks recommended a 1,000 ft. setback requirement and advised that a Rule would be a protective device. Commissioner Neill recommended that the Poultry Association and Health Department should get a consortium to make recommendations regarding an environmental rule. Commissioner Peterson recommended that members of the community should get involved to see what they would be happy with. Commissioner L. Smith advised that he is concerned about lawsuits. Commissioner Pait expressed appreciation to Mr. Harris and Mr. Stewart for the presentation.

ITEM 5. EMERGENCY SERVICES:

- A. **Public Hearing Regarding Six Mile Fire Service/Insurance Districts –** Vice Chairman Pait declared the public hearing open. Fire Marshal Mitchell Byrd discussed the advantages of moving to six mile fire districts and the effects it would have on the cost of homeowners insurance. There were no further comments and the hearing was declared closed.
- B. **Consider Resolution Establishing Service/Insurance Districts – A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to adopt a resolution establishing six mile service/insurance districts effective July 1, 2007.**

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SERVICE/INSURANCE DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION AND THE ANNUAL LEVY OF PROPERTY TAXES FOR SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE OF SAID DISTRICTS WITHIN BLADEN COUNTY.

WHEREAS, as authorized by General Statutes of North Carolina, Chapter 153A, Article 16, the Board of Commissioners of Bladen County does hereby define and establish service/insurance districts in order to finance, provide and maintain for the districts fire protection, services, facilities and functions in addition to, and to a greater extent than those financed, provided and maintained for the entire County; and

WHEREAS, in determining whether to establish the proposed service districts, the Board of Commissioners, among other things, considered:

1. The appraised value of property subject to taxation in the proposed districts.
2. The present tax rates of the County.
3. The ability of the proposed districts to sustain the additional taxes necessary to provide the services planned for the districts.
4. And other matters believed by the Commissioners to have a bearing on whether the districts should be established; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, after due notice and as provided, held a public hearing and in all respects complied with the required provisions of law before adopting this resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners upon the information and evidence received, finds that:

- (a) There is a demonstrable need for providing in the said districts fire protection.
- (b) It is impossible or impracticable to provide those services on a county-wide basis.
- (c) It is economically feasible to provide the proposed services in the districts without unreasonable or burdensome annual tax levies; and
- (d) There is a demonstrable demand for the proposed services by persons residing in the districts.
- (e) That all requirements for establishment of the service/insurance districts in the County have been complied with.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLVES THEREFORE;

1. That the service/insurance districts for fire protection are hereby defined and established as described in Exhibit "A", and as shown on the attached maps, Exhibits "B – P", and made a part hereof.
2. Bladen County shall levy property taxes within the said service/insurance districts in addition to those throughout the County, in order to finance, provide or maintain for the districts, services provided therein, in addition to or to a greater extent than those financed, provided or maintained for the entire County.
3. That a Board of Directors of each service/insurance fire district, composed of no less than 5 members, resident property owners of each district, is hereby established for the purpose of negotiating with each district annually, to provide fire protection for each district and to consider and recommend each year to the County Commissioners a reasonable tax rate not to exceed 15 cents per \$100.00 valuation, to be levied upon property in the districts to finance fire protection, and serve in such other respects as may be appropriate in matters pertaining to fire protection in the districts. The members of the Board of Directors of the each district shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners of Bladen County, and shall serve from their initial appointment and qualification as follows: One (1) member appointed for a term of one (1) year; two (2) members appointed for a term of two (2) years; and two (2) members appointed for a term of three (3) years. At completion of the initial term of office for each member, all additional appointments to vacancies on the Board shall be for three (3) year terms. The County Fire Marshal will serve as Ex Officio member of the committee and provide assistance to them.
4. Effective date. This resolution shall take effect at the beginning of the fiscal year of 2007-2008.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner James G. Smith who made a motion that it be adopted, this motion was seconded by Commissioner Greg Taylor and upon being put to a vote, was duly adopted, and was so ordered by the Chairman.

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ITEM 4. VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS ORDINANCE:

County Manager Greg Martin presented the proposed Voluntary Agricultural Districts Ordinance. After discussion, direction was given to add the following information to Page 6, Item 2 (b) *Farm Bureau and any other farm related agencies*. **A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Larry Smith to approve the proposed Voluntary Agricultural Districts Ordinance with the addition to Page 6, Item 2 (b) of the wording *Farm Bureau and any other farm related agencies*.**

ITEM 6. ADVISORY BOARDS:

- A. **Elizabethtown Planning & Zoning Commission ETJ and Board of Adjustments – Tabled**
- B. **Bladenboro Rural Fire District Committee – A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to appoint Charles Wiggins to the Bladenboro Rural Fire District Committee effective immediately with an expiration date of April 4, 2009.**
- C. **Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – Tabled**
- D. **Ammon Fire Service District Committee – Tabled**
- E. **Animal Control Advisory Committee – A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Larry Smith and approved to reappoint William Henry Corbett, Mike Jackson, and Morris White effective immediately with an expiration date of May 31, 2010.**
- F. **Bladen Community College Board of Trustees – A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to appoint Commissioner Charles Peterson to the expired slot of Jon Hasbrouck and to reappoint Dan McLaurin. The appointments are effective immediately and will expire June 30, 2011.**
- G. **Hickory Grove Fire Service District Committee – Tabled**
- H. **Kelly Fire Service District Committee – Tabled**
- I. **Lumber River Workforce Development Board – A motion was made by Delilah B. Blanks, seconded by James G. Smith and approved to waive the two consecutive term rule and to reappoint Dr. Stanley Richardson and Dr. Darrell Page to the Lumber River Workforce Development Board effective immediately with an expiration date of June 30, 2009.**
- J. **Bladen County Planning Board – A motion was made by Delilah B. Blanks, seconded by W. D. Neill, Jr. and approved to reappoint Ed Tatum, David Hursey, Roger Wright, and Pat Melvin to the Planning Board effective immediately with an expiration date of June 30, 2009. Mr. Mike Cogdell's seat was tabled.**
- K. **Bladen County Zoning Board of Adjustment – A motion was made by W. D. Neill, Jr., seconded by Larry Smith and approved to reappoint Ed Tatum, Pat Melvin, David Hursey, and Roger Wright to the Zoning Board of Adjustment effective immediately with an expiration date of June 30, 2009. Mr. Mike Cogdell's seat was tabled.**
- L. **Recreation Committee – A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Delilah B. Blanks and approved to reappoint Eddie Knight, Mary Elizabeth Jones, Glenn Walters, and Glen McKoy to the Recreation Committee effective immediately and with an expiration date of June 30, 2010.**
- M. **Social Services – A motion was made by Delilah B. Blanks, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to reappoint Roland McKoy to the Social Services Board effective immediately with an expiration date of June 30, 2010.**
- N. **Tar Heel Fire Service District Committee – A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to reappoint Eddie Knight, Dailey Council, Troy Smith, Vernon Richardson and to appoint Terry Herring to the expired seat of P. H. Allen. The appointments are effective immediately with an expiration date of June 30, 2009.**
- O. **White Lake Fire Service District Commission – Tabled**

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P. White Oak Fire Service District Committee – Tabled

Commissioner Margaret Lewis-Moore arrived.

- A. **Calendar Update** – Mr. Martin reviewed the following scheduled activities:
- Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet – June 7 at 6:30 p.m. (LuMil)
 - Board of Commissioners Special Meeting – June 18 @ 5:30 p.m. (DOT)
- B. **Reschedule July, 2007 Meetings** – **A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to reschedule the July meetings due to the NACo Conference to the 2nd and 4th Mondays, July 9, 2007 and July 23, 2007.**
- C. **Present Proposed FY 08 County Operating Budget** – County Manager Greg Martin presented the proposed FY 08 Operating Budget. He reviewed the following items:

General Fund Highlights

- Proposed GF Budget of \$37,687,181
- Proposed ad valorem tax rate of \$0.74 per \$100 valuation
- Increased funding for Employee Compensation, Public Safety, and Education
- Eliminates reliance on Fund Balance as a source of revenue
- Revenue Overview
- Ad Valorem Taxes
- Budgeted vs. Actual Tax Base
- Property Tax Rate
- Revenue Overview
- Income on Investments
- FY 2008 Revenues by Source
- Fund Balance
- Expenditure Overview
- Increasing Operating Costs
- Personnel/Employee Benefits
- Pay As You Go – Capital Items
- Installment-Purchase Items
- Medicaid
- Education
- School Funding History
- Service Agencies
- General Fund Expenditures
- BC Water District
- Solid Waste Fund
- Fire Districts
- Summary

Mr. Martin expressed appreciation to the Department Managers and Finance Director Lisa Coleman for their hard work and cooperation throughout the budget process.

Chairperson Moore complimented Mr. Martin on the proposed budget and urged the Commissioners to absorb the information provided and to wait for discussion on the matter until the budget workshops.

ITEM 2. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Greg Taylor referred to a request received from the parents of a student who is involved in SkillsUSA at West Bladen High School. The student is moving on to compete on the national level in Kansas City and the parents are requesting financial assistance with the trip. After discussion the following action was taken: **A motion was made by Greg Taylor, seconded by Delilah Blanks and approved by a vote of 8 AYES (W. D. Neill Jr., Greg Taylor, Billy Ray Pait, Margaret Lewis-Moore, Delilah**

Blanks, Larry Smith, Charles Ray Peterson, and James G. Smith) to 1 NO (Lewis Tatum) to provide \$500 to the West Bladen SkillsUSA Team.

The Commissioners took a five minute recess.

A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by W. D. Neill Jr. to enter Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel Matters.

A motion was made by Greg Taylor, seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to enter Regular Session.

Discussion was held regarding scheduling a Special Session Meeting for Department Managers to present information to the Commissioners. The consensus of the Board was to meet on Monday, June 11 at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

**Margaret Lewis-Moore, Chairperson
Bladen County Board of Commissioners**

ATTEST:

Kathy P. Britt, Clerk