

**MAY 21, 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. Commissioner Larry Smith provided the Invocation and County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- A. Approve Minutes: May 7, 2007
- B. Approve Agenda:
- C. Approve Budget Amendments:

	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b><i>Parks &amp; Recreation</i></b>		
Exp. 106600.531 Insurance	\$990.00	
Rev. 103660.000 Recreation-Fees Ins.	\$990.00	
Exp. 106600.570 Misc. Recreation	\$500.00	
Rev. 103190.010 Misc. Revenue	\$500.00	
<b>Health Department</b>		
Exp. 105920.330 Supplies	\$1,125.00	
Rev. 103530.090 DHHS-Family Planning	\$1,125.00	
Exp. 105950.740 Capital Outlay	\$3,000.00	
Rev. 103530.061 DHHS-Child Health	\$3,000.00	
<b>Revaluation</b>		
Exp. 317200.060 Group Ins.	\$755.00	
Exp. 317200.110 Telephone		\$755.00
Exp. 317200.330 Supplies		\$5,091.00
Rev. 313120.010 Fm GF		\$5,091.30
<b>JAIL</b>		
Expenditures:		
105110.020 Salaries & Wages	\$140,000.00	
105110.050 FICA	\$11,000.00	
105110.060 Group Insurance		10,000.00
105100.061 Retiree Insurance		2,000.00
105100.111 Postage		\$400.00
105100.160 Maint/Repair Equipment		\$150.00
105110.330 Supplies & Materials	\$400.00	

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105110.360 Uniforms \$150.00  
 105110.450 Contracted Services \$75.00  
 105110.570 Miscellaneous Expense \$75.00  
 Revenue:  
 103180.010 Interest Income \$100,000.00  
 103270.010 Court Costs/Fees \$39,000.00

**D. Approve County Attorney Invoices:**

SW Site (Cain) \$818.00  
 May Retainer \$300.00  
 Tax Foreclosure \$17.00

**E. Approve Tax Releases/Refunds for April: Docket # 106**

**F. Approve Home & Community Care Block Grant FY 07-08 Budget:**

NAME AND ADDRESS: Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults  
 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDER: Elizabethtown, NC 28337  
 County Funding Plan  
 Provider Services Summary  
 DOA-732 2/07)  
 (Rev. BLADEN  
 July 1, June 30, 2007  
 REVISION # , DATE :

Services	Ser. Delivery (Check)	Dir	Purch	A			B	C	D	E	F	G	H
				ck Grant Fuming Access	In-Home	Other	Total	Required Local Match	Net* Ser <sup>y</sup> Cost	USDA Subsidy	Total Funding	Projected HCCBG Units	Projected Reimburse. Rate
Congregate Nutr.						90103	10011	100114		100114	21000	4.77	210
Home Del. Nutr.						36000	4000	40000	4500	44500	6600	6.06	66
General Transp.				43000			4778	47778		47778	20976	2.28	209
Medical Transp.				12000			1333	13333		13333	2800	4.76	28
Case Assistance				15008			1668	16676		16676			
Home Level I					100000		11111	111111		111111	5946	18.69	59
Senior Center						15000	1667	16667		16667			
Adult Day Care					31000		3444	34444		34444	980	35.15	9
Housing & Home Imp.					15000		1667	16667		16667			
Health Promotion						2000	222	2222		2222			
							0	0		0			
							0	0		0			
							0	0		0			
							0	0		0			
<b>Total</b>				70008	146000	143103	359111	39901	399012	4500	403512	58302	583

\*Adult Day Care & Adult Day Health ADC  
 Daily Care  
 Transportation  
 Administrative  
 Net Ser. Cost Total

Care Net Service ADHC  
 Cost  
 Certification of required minimum local match will be expended simultaneously with Block Grant Funding.

Require d local match will be expended simultaneously  
 Signature, County Finance Officer Date  
 Signature, Chairman, Board of Commissioners

**G. Schedule Special Meeting for June 18, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. Regarding DOT Secondary Road Program:**

**ITEM 2. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:**

- Commissioner Blanks who also serves as Chairperson of the DSS Board, advised that the State is requesting clarity regarding Bladen County's Work First Plan.

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She reviewed the following items and requested consideration by the Board of County Commissioners for the information to be included in the County's Work First Plan:

(1) Priority extended to Work First Families regarding child care services, (2) Medicaid is an Entitlement Program, and (3) TANF cannot be used to pay medical services.

**A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by Billy Ray Pait and approved to amend Bladen County's Work First Plan by including the following information: (1) Priority extended to Work First Families regarding child care services, (2) Show Medicaid as an Entitlement Program, and (3) TANF cannot be used to pay medical services.**

- Chairperson Moore asked for consideration by the Board to assign a voting delegate and alternate for the 2007 annual NACo conference scheduled for July, 2007 in Richmond, VA. **A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by W. D. Neill Jr. and approved to appoint Chairperson Moore as Voting Delegate to the 2007 NACo Annual Conference and to appoint Vice Chairman Billy Ray Pait as Alternate.**

#### **ITEM 4. Voluntary Agricultural Districts:**

A. **Public Hearing:** Planning Director Greg Elkins addressed the Board regarding the fact that there has been some interest expressed in the establishment of Voluntary Agricultural Districts by farmers and other interested persons in Bladen County. Mr. Elkins further advised that input was received from various agencies regarding a proposed ordinance, and he expressed appreciation for the hard work everyone put into it.

Chairperson Moore declared the public hearing open.

Farm Bureau President Ray Allen introduced Associate General Council for NC Farm Bureau Steve Woodson. Mr. Allen advised that Attorney Woodson had reviewed the proposed ordinance and would be making comments regarding it.

Attorney Woodson provided historical information regarding Voluntary Agricultural Districts. He indicated that fifty-two counties in North Carolina have passed Voluntary Agricultural Districts ordinances and that an ordinance raises the visibility of farming and agriculture in a county. Mr. Woodson advised that an ordinance will allow the County to set up Voluntary Agricultural Districts and will consist of a five member advisory board regarding matters impacting agriculture in the County. Other matters of interest that Attorney Woodson focused on were:

- Proposed ordinance doesn't provide for a public hearing on condemnation of farm land. (Suggested that Bladen County consider a revision to include this in the ordinance.)
- Public Notice should be displayed in Register of Deeds Office and Tax Office regarding Voluntary Agricultural Districts. (Some counties inform the public by the use of signs in the Rite-of-Way.)
- Waiver of Water and Sewer assessment as long as a farmer doesn't hook up to water and sewer.
- Municipalities are not covered in Ag. Districts. The ordinance does not impact the authority of municipalities.
- No district in designated growth corridors. If a growth corridor is established at a later date, contiguous land can be allowed to come into an Ag. District without Board of Commissioners approval.
- Change verbiage from the word *shall* to *may* regarding advisory board memberships.
- Funding – Discussion of \$1,000 for start-up. Board of Commissioners requested a separate document.

Max Merrill from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture addressed the Board regarding Voluntary Agricultural Districts ordinance. He advised that this is an excellent

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start to preserve farm land in Bladen County. Mr. Merrill advised that an ordinance doesn't affect Extra Territorial Jurisdictions (ETJ) without a memorandum of understanding.

There were no further comments and the hearing was declared closed.

**A motion was made by Greg Taylor, seconded by W. D. Neill Jr. and approved to table adoption of the Voluntary Agricultural Districts Ordinance until June 4, 2007. The consensus of the Board was for a condemnation statement to be added to the proposed ordinance for consideration.**

**ITEM 5. PLANNING:**

- A. **Public Hearing** – Chairperson Moore declared the public hearing open regarding Request to Rezone Property Identified by PIN 2206-00-21-0566.

Planning Director Greg Elkins advised that Mr. Charles Mitchell has requested approval to rezone a portion of the property located at 75 White Oak Road, Kelly, NC and identified by PIN 2206-00-21-0566. Mr. Elkins further advised that Mr. Mitchell wants the property rezoned to Commercial for Manufactured Home Sales. He indicated that Mr. Mitchell will be selling refurbished mobile homes as well as homes that have been repossessed.

There were no further comments and the hearing was declared closed.

- B. Consider Request to Rezone Property – **Rezoning Request Disposition**

**Board Member Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Board Member James G. Smith presented the following Rezoning Request recommendation:**

**WHEREAS**, the Bladen County Board of Commissioners, after due notices, conducted a public hearing on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 2007, concerning the approval of a Rezoning Permit pursuant to G.S. 153A-323; and

**WHEREAS**, said **Rezoning Request** is more fully described as follows: The property is located at approximately 75 White Oak Road, Kelly, NC and is requested that the parcel be rezoned from Residential Agriculture (RA) district to Commercial © for the use of a used manufactured home sales lot on 10.75 acres of the 33.95 acre parcel.

Property Owner(s): Charles G. Mitchell, Jr

**Petitioner(s): Charles G. Mitchell, Jr. by Charles G. Mitchell III,  
Attorney In Fact Property Tax Map Number: 2206**

Block Number: 00.21

PIN: 0566

Current Zoning Classification: Residential Agriculture

Rezoning Requested: Commercial

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Bladen County Board of Commissioners that this rezoning request is not consistent with the adopted 1999-2010 Bladen County Land Use Plan; and the rezoning request is reasonable; and the rezoning request is in the public interest.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Bladen County Board of Commissioners that this rezoning request is duly approved by the Bladen County Board of Commissioners this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2007.

The following Board Members voted in the affirmative: Lewis Tatum, W. D. Neill Jr., Greg Taylor, Billy Ray Pait, Margaret Lewis-Moore, Delilah Blanks, Larry Smith, Charles Ray Peterson, James G. Smith.

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**ITEM 6. Gang Activity Presentation:**

Gang Investigator Steve Lesane provided a Power Point Presentation on gang activity in Bladen County. He discussed various signs that children will generally display when affiliated with a gang and how their personalities will change. Investigator Lesane also discussed hand motions that are made and what they mean. He indicated that gangs will mark their territory with graffiti and that citizens should try to remove it as quickly as possible from their property. Investigator Lesane indicated that he does speak to groups in order to raise awareness of gang activity. Various commissioners inquired about his speaking engagements with the schools and also churches throughout the County. Mr. Lesane provided business cards for distribution to the Board of Commissioners.

**ITEM 7. Emergency Services:**

- A. Request to Schedule Public Hearing - Fire Marshal Mitchell Byrd requested consideration by the Board to schedule a public hearing regarding the establishment of new six mile fire districts. He advised that the new fire districts will allow residents living in a class ten rated area to be incorporated into a nine rated fire district which will reduce the cost of home owners insurance. Mr. Byrd also advised that six mile fire districts will provide equal fire district establishments and easier work for expansion of districts in the future. **A motion was made by Greg Taylor, seconded by Billy Ray Pait and approved to schedule a public hearing for June 4, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. regarding the establishment of six mile fire districts.**
- B. Request Consideration to Approve Bio-Terrorism Grant – Mr. Byrd advised that Bladen County has been allocated \$1,500 of a regional \$25,000 Bio-Terrorism Grant to be used for educational and training purposes. He further advised that approval is needed from the Board of Commissioners to accept the \$1,500. **A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved for Bladen County to accept its \$1,500 share of a regional Bio-Terrorism Grant mandated for educational and training purposes.**

**ITEM 8. Advisory Boards:**

- A. **Elizabethtown Rural Fire District Committee – A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by W. D. Neill Jr. and approved to appoint Linda Gillespie to the Elizabethtown Rural Fire District Committee effective immediately with an expiration date of February 3, 2009.**
- B. **Elizabethtown Planning and Zoning Commission (ETJ) and Board of Adjustments – Tabled**
- C. **Bladenboro Rural Fire District Committee – Tabled**

**ITEM 9. County Manager:**

- A. **Calendar Update** – Mr. Martin reviewed the following scheduled activities:
  - MCAB Meeting – May 22 @ 7p
  - Board of E & R Meeting – May 24 @ 1p
  - Employee Holiday – Memorial Day – May 28
  - Budget Presentation – June 4
  - Budget Public Hearing - June 18, 2007 (By Consensus)
- B. **FY 08 Property and Liability Coverage** – County Manager Greg Martin advised that the County recently solicited proposals for Property and Liability coverage and Workers' Compensation coverage. He further advised that for Property and Liability coverage, Lacy West-Thomas Insurance presented a bid of \$299,648 (excluding terrorism) and \$302,638 (including terrorism) coverage. Mr. Martin indicated that the NCACC Risk Management Pool submitted a bid of \$400,000.00. After discussion, **a motion was made by W. D. Neill Jr., seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to remain with the current provider Lacy West-Thomas Insurance (without terrorism coverage) in the amount of \$299,648.00.**

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**C. Workers Compensation Coverage** – Mr. Martin provided information regarding the possibility of receiving a quote from Key Risk. He advised that the NCACC Risk Management Pool presented a bid of \$897,689 for Workers Compensation Coverage. After discussion and in order to provide time for Key Risk to submit a quote, the Board decided to recess the meeting until May 29 at 12:30 p.m.

**D. Consider Closed Session** – A motion was made by **Delilah Blanks**, seconded by **Billy Ray Pait** and approved to enter Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)4, 5, and 6.

A motion was made by **Greg Taylor**, seconded by **Larry Smith** and approved to enter Regular Session.

A motion was made by **Greg Taylor**, seconded by **Lewis Tatum** and approved for the County Manager to write and sign a letter of recommendation to North Carolina's Southeast.

There was no further business and the meeting was recessed until **May 29, 2007 at 12:30 p.m.**

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**12:30 p.m.**

A motion was made by **Charles Ray Peterson**, seconded by **Billy Ray Pait** and approved to reconvene the **May 21, 2007** meeting with the following members present:

Margaret Lewis-Moore, Chairperson

Billy Ray Pait, Vice Chairman

Lewis Tatum

W. D. Neill Jr.

Charles Ray Peterson

**A. Consider FY 08 Workers Compensation Insurance Coverage** – County Manager Greg Martin advised that Key Risk Insurance Company submitted a bid for the FY 08 Workers Compensation Insurance in the amount of \$547,098. He discussed the substantial savings with full coverage and the way it limits the County's exposure in relation to a Modified Self-Insured Plan. Mr. Martin recommended that the County accept the Request to Bind: Work/Comp Insurance Coverage quote from Key Risk. **A motion was made by W. D. Neill Jr., seconded by Billy Ray Pait and approved to accept the FY 08 bid for Workers Compensation for full coverage insurance submitted by Key Risk in the amount of \$547,098.**

**B. Consider Agreement** – A motion was made by **W. D. Neill Jr.**, seconded by **Lewis Tatum** to approve **FY 08 Grant Agreement between Bladen County Cooperative Extension 4-H Friends of Youth and the State of NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.**

A motion was made by **W. D. Neill Jr.**, seconded by **Lewis Tatum** and approved to adjourn at **12:58 p.m.**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**Kathy P. Britt, Clerk**

