

March 16, 2009

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on March 16, 2009 at 6:30 pm in the Commissioners meeting room of the Bladen County Courthouse with the following members present:

Billy Ray Pait, Chairman
Delilah Blanks, Vice Chairperson
Lewis Tatum
W.D. Neill, Jr.
Larry Smith
Margaret Lewis-Moore
Charles Ray Peterson
Daniel R. Dowless
David R. Gooden

Attorney: Allen Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

Chairman Pait called the meeting to order. Vice Chairperson Blanks provided the Invocation and County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a motion by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Delilah Blanks, the Board approved the following consent items:

- A. Approve Minutes
March 2, 2009 (Regular Session)**
- B. Approve Agenda**
- C. Approve Budget Amendments**

	Increase	Decrease
<u>Social Services</u>		
Exp: 146160.270	\$27,483.00	
<i>Smart Start – Vendor</i>		
Rev: 143690.000	\$27,483.00	
<i>Smart Start -Vendor</i>		
<u>Health Department</u>		
Exp: 105960.332	\$2,500.00	
<i>Supplies</i>		
Rev: 103530.080	\$2,500.00	
<i>DHHS – Health Promotions</i>		
<u>Health Department</u>		
Exp: 105905.330	\$3,388.30	
<i>Supplies</i>		
Rev: 103330.061	\$3,388.30	
<i>DENR – Environmental Health</i>		

- D. Approve County Attorney Invoices**
 - **March Retainer \$300.00**
 - **Appeal to Property Tax Commission \$970.00**
- E. Approve Tax Refunds and Releases for February**

ITEM 2. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Recognize County Employees for Years of Service** – Chairman Pait presented Gary Edwards with a certificate and pin in recognition of his 10 years of service to the Bladen County Sheriff’s Department.
- B. Recognize Bladenboro Middle School and Clarkton School of Discovery Junior Beta Clubs** – Chairman Pait presented a trophy to Bladenboro Middle School Junior Beta Club and Clarkton School of Discovery Junior Beta Club for their successful accomplishments at the North Carolina Junior Beta Club Convention.

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- Upon a motion by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Delilah Blanks, the Board approved a \$1500 appropriation to Bladenboro Middle School Junior Beta Club and a \$1500 appropriation to Clarkton School of Discovery Junior Beta Club to assist with travel costs to the National Beta Club Convention.

Larry Smith arrived.

Reception

- Commissioner Neill expressed concern regarding NC Department of Transportation budget reductions. He requested that County Manager Greg Martin obtain information regarding the status of Lucy Drive

ITEM 3. INDIVIDUALS/DELEGATIONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COMMISSIONERS:

- **Kim Pevia, Southeast Entrepreneurial Alliance Coordinator** – Ms. Pevia provided information regarding the Southeast Entrepreneurial Alliance Program. Ms. Pevia explained that this program serves Bladen, Columbus, Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties

ITEM 4. SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: (*Sharon Prevatte, Area Director and CEO*) – Ms. Prevatte provided an update regarding Mental Health Services which included statistical data for the 2nd quarter.

- Commissioners expressed continuing concern with the extended amount of Sheriff's Department staff time associated with Involuntary Commitments.

ITEM 5. PUBLIC HEALTH: (*Wayne Stewart, Health Director*)

- **State of the County's Health** – Health Director Wayne Stewart and Health Educators Carol Strickland and Marianne Valentiner provided a report regarding Bladen County Health Department services and statistics for 2008.

ITEM 6. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT: (*Sheriff Steve Bunn*)

- **Consider Approving Governor's Crime Commission Grant Application** – Upon a motion by Margaret Lewis-Moore, seconded by Larry Smith, the Board approved Sheriff Bunn's request to apply for a Governors Crime Commission Grant in the amount of approximately \$500,000 for Courthouse Security, with the understanding that after 2 years, Bladen County would fund the ongoing cost for approximately 5 deputies.

ITEM 7. COUNTY MANAGER: (*Greg Martin*)

- A. **Calendar Update** – Mr. Martin briefly reviewed the calendar of upcoming events.
- B. **Consider Entering Closed Session in Accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(5) Real Property Acquisition and (a)(6) Personnel Matter** – Upon a motion by Margaret Lewis-Moore, seconded by Larry Smith, the Board entered Closed Session.

A motion was made by Delilah Blanks, seconded by W.D. Neill, Jr. to exit Closed Session and re-enter Regular Session.

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Upon a motion by Margaret Lewis-Moore, seconded by Delilah Blanks, the Board approved a recommendation by Revenue Administrator Chris Ellis to transfer Nathan Dowless to the newly established position of Tax Appraiser at a Grade 63B.

Upon a motion by Margaret Lewis-Moore, seconded by Larry Smith, the Board declined the offer of E.G. Dale to donate property located at 1700 Mercer Mill Road.

A motion was made by Margaret Lewis-Moore, seconded by David Gooden to approve the request made by Bladen County employee Kory Hair to transfer Voluntary Shared Leave to his wife Jennifer Hair , an employee of Bladen County Schools, pending the school system's approval.

- Chairman Pait recognized Jail staff member Robert Leggett for his 15 years of service to Bladen County. Mr. Leggett was unable to be present at the beginning of the meeting during employee recognitions.

A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by W.D. Neill, Jr., to adjourn at 8:50 pm.

Billy Ray Pait, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Ashley C. Sasser, Clerk