

**JUNE 18, 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 James G. Smith provided the Invocation and County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Moore added Item 8D, Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel, to the agenda.

**ITEM 1. CONSENT ITEMS:**

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

- A. Approve Minutes: June 4, 2007**
- B. Approve Agenda:**
- C. Approve Budget Amendments:**

	<b>Increase</b>	<b>Decrease</b>
<b><u>White Lake FD</u></b>		
Exp. 395060.570 Misc. Exp.	\$10,000.00	
Rev. 393290.020 FBA- Contingency	\$10,000.00	
<b><u>Parks &amp; Recreation</u></b>		
Exp. 106600.740 Capital Outlay Equip.	\$4,600.00	
Rev. 103660.010 Fees Recreation	\$4,600.00	
<b><u>Library</u></b>		
Exp. 106700.450 Contracted Service	\$230.00	
Rev. 103190.010 Arts Council	\$230.00	
<b><u>EMS</u></b>		
Expenditures:		
325300.740 Capital Outlay	\$19,000.00	
325300.061 Retiree Insurance	\$1,100.00	
325300.170 Res. Vehicle Amount	\$5,500.00	
325300.330 Supplies/Materials	\$1,200.00	
325300.331 Medical Supplies	\$9,500.00	
325300.360 Uniforms	\$1,000.00	
325300.450 Contracted Service	\$50,000.00	
325300.580 Schools/Meetings	\$350.00	
325300.581 Public Education	\$100.00	
325300.571 EMS Grant		\$4,462.90
325300.060 Group Insurance		\$33,287.10
323360.010 Billing Revenue	\$50,000.00	

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**Administration**

Exp. 106910.960 Schools-83	\$105,000.00	
Exp. 106910.970 Schools-86	\$205,000.00	
Exp. 106800.028 Hospital Advance	\$500,000.00	
Rev. 103110.065 Taxes Schools	\$310,000.00	
Rev. 103190.050 FBA	\$500,000.00	

**Water**

Exp. 254700.020 Salaries & Wages	\$8,200.00	
Exp. 254700.050 FICA	\$500.00	
Exp. 254700.060 Group Insurance		\$700.00
Exp. 254700.070 Retirement	\$400.00	
Rev. 253470.004 Finance Charges Late	\$8,400.00	

**Register of Deeds**

Exp. 104800.061 Retiree Insurance	\$1,300.00	
Exp. 104800.060 Group Insurance		\$1,300.00
Exp. 104800.080 Other Fringe Benefits	\$2,200.00	
Exp. 104800.140 Travel	\$100.00	
Exp. 104800.111 Postage		\$100.00
Rev. 103160.010 Fees-Register of Deeds	\$2,200.00	

- D. Approve County Attorney Invoices: \$300.00**
- E. Approve Tax Refunds/Releases for May, 2007: Docket # \_\_\_\_\_**
- F. Approve Resolution Supporting the Abandonment of a Portion of Secondary Road 1315 (Red Oak Farm Road) from the State Maintained System:**
- G. Approve Resolution Scheduling Public Hearing Date of July 9, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Regarding proposals to Sell or Lease Bladen County Hospital:**
- H. Schedule Public Hearing for July 23, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Regarding Closeout of Tobermory Well Project CDBG No. 02-E-1070**

**ITEM 2. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO COMMISSIONERS:**

- Chairperson Moore advised that Clerk to the Board Kathy Britt had submitted a letter of resignation and that on behalf of the Board, she was happy when someone could advance in their career. Chairperson Moore called on Ms. Britt to step forward to receive a plaque recognizing her years of service.

Ms. Britt expressed appreciation to the Board for the experience of serving as Clerk to the Board of Commissioners. She advised that it had been a learning experience and that she appreciated the Board's confidence when she was appointed Clerk. Ms. Britt advised that she appreciated the staff in the County Manager's office, as well as the support she received from the County Manager.

- Commissioner Blanks updated the Board regarding a Board of Directors meeting that she had recently attended. The topic was Medicaid, and Dr. Blanks encouraged fellow commissioners to call Senator Rand and Representative Brisson concerning permanent Medicaid relief.
- Town Commissioners Keith Croom and Maurice Rivenbark addressed the Board and presented a Seal of the Town of Clarkton to be displayed in the County Commissioners meeting room. Chairperson Moore accepted the Seal and expressed appreciation to the gentlemen.

**ITEM 4. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING FY 2008 PROPOSED BUDGET:**

Chairperson Moore declared the public hearing open.

Mr. John Shaw addressed the Board regarding the proposed tax rate. He indicated that the proposed rate would increase taxes for citizens who live in the Bay Tree area by

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approximately 40%. Mr. Shaw advised that most of the citizens who live at Bay Tree are retired and that he hoped the Board would consider that when adopting a final tax rate.

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

**ITEM 5. DIVISION ON AGING:**

Division on Aging Director Joan Allen addressed the Board to request that a list of names submitted by the Aging Advisory Committee be considered for appointment to serve on a Senior Center Advisory Council. She advised that the council is a required governing body for the operation of a senior center under NC Division of Aging Standards. She further advised that the Aging Advisory Board currently serves in this capacity, and the agency is in the process of applying for certification for Bladen County Senior Center. Ms. Allen indicated that the governing group should be separate from the Board and that certification will make it possible for the agency to receive additional funding which will enable it to provide more activities for the senior adults of Bladen County. Ms. Allen advised that there are specific requirements for council membership which include sixty percent of the members must be sixty years of age and older and at least some of the participants should be involved in senior center activities. She indicated that the suggested group possesses the requirements and that the group also consists of residents of various towns and communities. Ms. Allen reiterated the fact that the list of names is only a suggestion to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Blanks discussed the differences in the East Arcadia Senior Center and the Center located in Elizabethtown. She advised that the County supports the one located in Elizabethtown, but that East Arcadia is self-supporting. Dr. Blanks provided statistical information on the East Arcadia site and extended an invitation to everyone to visit. She encouraged the Board to study the list of suggested names for future appointment to the Senior Center Advisory Council.

**ITEM 6. SHERIFF DEPARTMENT:**

Sheriff Steve Bunn addressed the Board regarding the Jail-Health Services Agreement that will expire on June 30, 2007. He advised that Hospital CEO David Masterson has indicated that the hospital will not be able to renew the agreement.

Sheriff Bunn advised that he has talked with other sheriffs throughout the state about best practices related to the provision of jail health services. He advised that he has received recommendations regarding the services and competitive costs provided by Southern Health Partners, Inc.

Sheriff Bunn referred to a copy of a proposed Health Services Agreement between Bladen County and Southern Health Partners, Inc. and requested consideration by the Board.

After discussion by the Board, the following action was taken: **A motion was made by Greg Taylor, seconded by W. D. Neill, Jr. and approved to table the matter until a Special Session regarding the Budget is held.**

**ITEM 7. ADVISORY BOARDS:**

- A. **Elizabethtown Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustments (ETJ) – A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to waive the two consecutive term rule and to reappoint Charles Cain effective immediately with a term that expires March 21, 2011.**
- B. **Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee – A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to waive the two consecutive term rule and to reappoint Annie Lacy effective immediately with a term that expires June 30, 2010.**

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- C. **Ammon Fire Service District Committee** – A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to waive the two consecutive term rule and to appoint Nathan Riley to the seat previously held by Julia Riley effective immediately with a term that expires June 30, 2009. The motion also included the action to reappoint Carl Whitted, with an expiration date of June 30, 2008; reappoint John Graham with an expiration date of June 30, 2009; reappoint Gary Padgett with an expiration date of June 30, 2008; reappoint Bobby Tatum with an expiration date of June 30, 2009.
- D. **Hickory Grove Fire Service District Committee** – A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to reappoint as follows: Charles McKeel, expiration June 30, 2009; Annette Smith, expiration June 30, 2008; Ricky Johnson, expiration June 30, 2009; Clifton Townsend, expiration June 30, 2009; and appoint Willis Ray Edge to the seat held by Kay Johnson with an expiration date of June 30, 2008.
- E. **Kelly Fire Service District Committee** – A motion was made by W. D. Neill, Jr., seconded by Delilah B. Blanks and approved to waive the two consecutive term rule and to reappoint as follows: Carolyn Cromartie, expiration June 30, 2009; Jerry Porter, expiration June 30, 2009; Bobby Lee Russ, expiration June 30, 2008; William Henry Corbett, expiration June 30, 2009; appoint Charles Ridenhour to the seat held by Jeff Huff, expiration date June 30, 2008.
- F. **Bladen County Planning Board** – A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by Charles Ray Peterson and approved to reappoint Mike Cogdell to a term that expires June 30, 2009.
- G. **Bladen County Zoning Board of Adjustment** - A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by Charles Ray Peterson and approved to reappoint Mike Cogdell to a term that expires June 30, 2009.
- H. **White Lake Fire Service District Commission** – A motion was made by Larry Smith, seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to appoint Cary Hammonds to the unexpired seat held by Tony Merritt, expiration date of June 30, 2009; appoint Jim Woodruff to the seat held by Glen Watkins, expiration date of June 30, 2009; reappoint B. C. Smith, expiration date of June 30, 2009.
- I. **White Oak Fire Service District Committee** – A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to reappoint Larry Sessoms, expiration date June 30, 2009; appoint Steve Dunham to the seat held by Richard Dunham, expiration date June 30, 2008; reappoint Haywood McKoy, expiration date June 30, 2009; reappoint Mike Johnson, expiration date June 30, 2008; appoint Laverne Tatum to the seat held by Harry Thomas, expiration date June 30, 2009.

**ITEM 8. COUNTY MANAGER:**

- A. **Calendar Update** – Mr. Martin reviewed the following upcoming calendar events:
  - June 20, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m. – Special Session (Budget)
  - June 25, 2007 @ 4:00 p.m. – Hospital Affiliation meeting
  - June 25, 2007 @ 4:30 p.m. – Board of Equalization & Review
  - June 28, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m. – Special Session (If Necessary)
- B. **NIMS Training** – Mr. Martin requested input from the Board regarding scheduling a workshop for elected officials prior to September 30, 2007 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- C. **Approval of Budget Amendments** – A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by Billy Ray Pait and approved to authorize the County Manager to approve budget amendments through June 30, 2007. The amendments will be included in the July 9 agenda packet for approval by the Board of Commissioners.

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

**A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to enter Regular Session.**

County Manager Greg Martin advised that Hospital CEO David Masterson notified him regarding immediate cash flow problems that the hospital was experiencing. He further advised that an advance in the amount of \$500,000 is needed. After discussion by the Board, the following action was taken: **A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to advance a loan of \$500,000 to Bladen County Hospital for the purpose of alleviating immediate cash flow problems.**

**A motion was made by Larry Smith, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to recess at 8:10 p.m. The meeting will reconvene on Wednesday, June 20, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.**

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

**ATTEST:**

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**Kathy P. Britt, Clerk**