

February 23, 2009

A special meeting was held on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 5:00 pm in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Bladen County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss budget matters. The following members were 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

Staff: County Manager Greg Martin, Finance Director Lisa Coleman, General Services Manager Robert Mazur, Sheriff Steve Bunn, Health Director Wayne Stewart, Health Department Administrative Officer Djuana Register, and Clerk to the Board Ashley Sasser.

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

Larry Smith arrived.

1. Financial Matters:

- A. Financial Overview** – County Manager Greg Martin provided an overview of audited history, sales tax history, 3 year audit comparison, and FY 09 Budget Projection.
- B. Education Funding** – County Manager Greg Martin reviewed the Education Funding History of Bladen County Schools and Bladen Community College.

Delilah Blanks arrived

- C. State Health Plan Update** – Mr. Martin provided a State Health Plan update. He stated that a 31% increase in premium is projected, which would total approximately \$366,657. Furthermore, he stated that there is a possibility of increase in copays and deductibles.

- 2. Expenditure Reduction Options** – County Manager Greg Martin informed the Board that in order to present a balanced budget in May, expenditure reduction options will need to be considered.

3. Update/Issues

- A. Sheriff** – Sheriff Steve Bunn addressed the Board concerning the ongoing need for Courthouse Security and the need to begin planning for construction of a new jail in Bladen County.
- B. General Services** – General Services Manager Robert Mazur addressed the Board concerning GovDeals. He explained that GovDeals is an Internet Surplus Auction Site to assist governments in legal disposal of surplus property. It was requested that this item be considered for approval during the March 2, 2009 meeting.
- C. Parks and Recreation** – Parks and Recreation Director Grant Pait reviewed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and its recommendations for Bladen County Parks and Recreation. Mr. Pait stated that he would be requesting grant funding in the upcoming year.
- D. Health** – Health Director Wayne Stewart and Health Department Administrative Officer addressed the Board concerning the need to fill a Communicable Disease Nurse position. Mr. Stewart stated that this position was occupied until January 9, 2009 when the employee resigned.

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Mr. Stewart also presented a request to purchase 14 vehicles at a cost of \$241,617.00. The funding sources would be the Health Department's Vehicle Fund and Home Health Fund Balance. Mr. Stewart stated the Board of Health had reviewed and approved both requests.

E. Finance – Finance Director Lisa Coleman presented a recommendation to the Board regarding Credit/Debit Card services with First Citizens Bank. She stated that the Water and Tax Departments have expressed a need for credit/debit card machines due to many citizens' requests to make a payment with a credit or debit card.

F. Teacher Vacancies – The Board discussed concerns regarding extended teacher vacancies.

Upon a motion by Lewis Tatum, seconded by W.D. Neill, Jr., the Board approved to request the Board of Education to investigate the concern regarding extended teacher vacancies, particularly at East Arcadia School, and for the Board of Education to provide a report to the Board of Commissioners.

G. Stimulus Package – Mr. Martin discussed the uncertainty of funding sources available through the Stimulus Package.

H. Golden LEAF-Community Assistance Initiative – Mr. Martin discussed the upcoming \$2 million Golden LEAF- Community Assistance Initiative.

4. Capital Improvement Program – Mr. Martin reviewed the Capital Improvement Program for 2009-2010.

5. Capital Projects Prioritization

6. Board of Education Request for Video Conferencing Project – Upon a motion by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Larry Smith, the Board approved funding in the amount of \$99,381.21 for Bladen County to purchase Video Conferencing equipment for Bladen County Schools.

7. Board Issues/Priorities

A. Review Suggested Rules of Procedure for the Board of County Commissioners – The Board was provided copies of Suggested Rules of Procedure for the Board of County Commissioners

Upon a motion by Delilah Blanks, seconded by Margaret Lewis-Moore, the Board approved for the Health Department to fill the vacant Communicable Disease Nurse position.

Upon a motion by Margaret Lewis-Moore, seconded by W.D. Neill, Jr., the Board approved the purchase of 8 cars for the Bladen County Health Department.

Upon a motion made by Daniel Dowless, seconded by Lewis Tatum, the Board adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Billy Ray Pait, Chairman
Bladen County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Ashley C. Sasser, Clerk