

MARCH 12, 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: Leslie Johnson, Johnson Law Firm

Chairperson Moore called the meeting to order. Commissioner W. D. Neill Jr. provided the Invocation and County Manager Greg Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Moore added (a)(3) Consultation with Attorney to Item 6D, Closed Session.

ITEM 1. CONSENT ITEMS:

A motion was made by Billy Ray Pait, seconded by Delilah Blanks and approved to adopt the following Consent Items:

- A. Approve Minutes:** February 19, 2007 (Regular Session)
- B. Approve Agenda:**
- C. Approve Budget Amendments:**

	Increase	Decrease
<u>Solid Waste</u>		
Exp. 205800.261 KBB Community Relations	\$1,441.00	
Rev. 203190.050 FBA	\$1,441.00	
<u>EMS</u>		
Exp. 325300.571 Training Equipment Grant	\$9,218.00	
Rev. 323280.160 Training Equipment Grant	\$9,218.00	
<u>Parks & Recreation</u>		
Exp. 106600.330 Supplies & Materials	\$100.00	
Exp. 106600.570 Programs & Misc.	\$1,155.50	
Rev. 03660.000 Recreation Fee Ins.	\$1,155.50	
<u>Health Department</u>		
Exp. 105985.330 Supplies	\$2,525.00	
Rev. 103530.103 DHHS-IAP	\$2,525.00	
Exp. 105900.330 Supplies	\$6,432.53	
Rev. 103560.092 Hep B & Flu Shots	\$6,432.53	
D. Approve County Attorney Invoices:		
Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc.	\$267.00	
Lease Agreements	\$1,595.00	
March Retainer	\$300.00	

- E. Approve Tax Refunds/Releases for January: Docket # 103**

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F. Schedule Public Hearing for April 2, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. regarding Economic Development Grants to Committee of 100 and Bladen's Bloomin Agri-Industrial.

ITEM 2. MATTERS OF INTEREST TO COMMISSIONERS:

- A. Presentation of Time Warner Cable Franchise Fee: General Manager Pat Smith addressed the Board and discussed a franchise fee that was submitted to the County in the amount of \$44,638.84. She updated the Board on the status of Time Warner's acquisition of Adelphia Cable and provided information regarding its future plans. The Commissioners expressed appreciation to Ms. Smith for the contributions to the citizens of Bladen County from Time Warner and for the assistance to the local economy. Several commissioners expressed a need for more services to be made available within the rural areas of the County.
- B. Recognize County of Bladen Retiree Joan Mabe: Chairperson Moore called on Ms. Mabe to step forward to receive a plaque for the years of dedicated service to Bladen County. Ms. Moore read the plaque and expressed appreciation to Ms. Mabe. Ms. Mabe thanked the Board and indicated that she is looking forward to her retirement years.
- C. Chairperson Moore called on Mr. Charles Ray Peterson regarding Matters of Interest to Commissioners: Mr. Peterson advised that it was time for the Board of Commissioners committee to begin meetings with the Board of Education regarding budget matters. Discussion was held regarding who would make up the committee. **A motion was made by Delilah Blanks, seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to appoint Commissioners W. D. Neill Jr., Billy Ray Pait, and Greg Taylor to serve as the Board of Commissioners Budget Committee with the Bladen County Schools Board members. Vice Chairman Pait will lead the subcommittee and will work with the County Manager on this matter.**
- D. Chairperson Moore called on Mr. Greg Taylor regarding Matters of Interest to Commissioners. Mr. Taylor questioned whether Flu Pandemic was an agenda item. County Manager Greg Martin advised that Health Director Wayne Stewart discussed the plan during the February 19th meeting. Mr. Stewart indicated that the notebooks at their desks were placed there as a follow-up to the last meeting. He invited the Board to a meeting regarding flu pandemic on Friday, March 16 at Trinity Methodist Church from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

ITEM 3. INDIVIDUALS/DELEGATIONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COMMISSIONERS:

County Attorney Leslie Johnson requested consideration of a deed subordination for FEMA grant recipient Gregory High. He indicated that Mr. High wants to fix up the home in order to increase the value of the property. **A motion was made by Greg Taylor, seconded by Billy Ray Pait and approved to accept County Attorney Leslie Johnson's recommendation to issue deed subordination for Mr. Gregory High.**

ITEM 4. SHERIFF DEPARTMENT:

- A. Consider Request Regarding Surplus Property Disposal: Chief Deputy Phillip Little addressed the Board to request the Board's declaration of surplus county owned firearms. He indicated that the Sheriff has arranged a transaction with Sig Arms Company to trade in the firearms and pay \$15,000 for 55 new Sig sidearms for the deputies, valued at \$34,405. He further advised that the \$15,100 will come from the sale of a number of firearms seized by the Court over many years. Mr. Little also requested approval of a budget amendment which accounts for the sale revenue and purchase costs of the new firearms. After discussion, the following action was taken: **A motion was made by Greg Taylor, seconded by Billy Ray Pait to approve request to declare firearms surplus property and to approve a budget amendment in the**

amount of \$15,100. Chairperson Moore called for discussion on the motion. Commissioner Taylor asked where the surplus property was going. Mr. Little indicated that Pawn South will be receiving the firearms. Commissioner Peterson inquired about the possibility of the firearms bringing in more money through a public auction. Mr. Little advised that the property cannot, by law, be disposed of in the manner that Mr. Peterson is referring to. Chairperson Moore called for a vote on the motion. **The vote was unanimous.**

ITEM 5. ADVISORY BOARD:

White Lake Fire District Committee – **A motion was made by Larry Smith, seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to table the White Lake Fire District Committee request from White Lake Fire Chief Dale Brennan.**

Discussion was held regarding board policy and responsibilities of fire district committee members. The consensus of the Board was for the fire district committees' board policy to be brought to the Board of Commissioners for review.

ITEM 6. COUNTY MANAGER:

- A. Calendar Update** – County Manager Greg Martin updated the Board on upcoming calendar events and reminded the Board of the Lumber River COG Educational meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 15 and the regular Board of Commissioners meeting on March 19 at 6:30 p.m. He also discussed the NCACC District meeting on April 11 in Laurinburg.
- B. Group Picture** – Mr. Martin requested input regarding when the Board would like to have its group picture taken. The consensus was for Monday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m.
- C. Consider Letter of Support Regarding BRAC Region WIRED Grant Proposal** – **A motion was made by Greg Taylor, seconded by W. D. Neill Jr. and approved to support the BRAC Region WIRED grant proposal.** *(A letter of support will be mailed to BRAC RTF.)*
- D. Consider Closed Session** – **A motion was made by Billy Ray Pait, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to enter Closed Session in Accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) Approval of Closed Sessions Minutes and (3) Consultation with Attorney.**

A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by W. D. Neill Jr. and approved to enter Regular Session.

County Manager Greg Martin advised that Bladen Free Clinic Executive Director Tina Reaves has requested a letter of support from the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Martin distributed copies of the proposed letter to the Board and the consensus was for the letter to be submitted to Ms. Reaves.

County Attorney Leslie Johnson requested consideration to negotiate with attorney John Crill regarding the hospital affiliation matter. **A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved for Johnson Law Firm to negotiate with attorney John Crill of Wyrick Robbins Yates Ponton, LLP, for specialization representation regarding Bladen County Hospital Affiliation.**

Commissioner Delilah Blanks referred to sample resolutions that are shown on the NC Association of County Commissioners website. She requested that a resolution regarding revenue options be brought to the Board's March 19 agenda.

A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by W. D. Neill Jr. and approved to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

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

ATTEST: _____, Clerk

