

March 25, 2008

A regular meeting of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 6:30 pm in the Commissioners Meeting Room of the Courthouse with the following members present:

Margaret Lewis-Moore, Chairperson
Billy Ray Pait
Lewis Tatum
Delilah B. Blanks
W.D. Neill, Jr.
James G. Smith
Larry Smith
Charles Ray Peterson
Greg Taylor

Attorney: Leslie Johnson, Allen 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.

A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Billy Ray Pait and approved to adopt the following consent items:

- A. Approve Minutes**
 - February 21, 2008 (Special Meeting)**
 - March 10, 2008 (Regular Meeting)**
 - March 13, 2008 (Public Hearing)**
- B. Approve Agenda**
- C. Approve Budget Amendments:**

| | Increase | Decrease |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>GIS/E911 Addressing</u> | | |
| Exp: 225300.740 | \$40,000.00 | |
| <i>Capital Outlay</i> | | |
| Rev: 223260.020 | \$40,000.00 | |
| <i>Wireless Fund Balance</i> | | |
| | | |
| <u>Social Services</u> | | |
| Exp: 146160.300 | \$1,669.00 | |
| <i>Day Care</i> | | |
| Rev: 143530.310 | \$1,669.00 | |
| <i>DSS Day Care</i> | | |
| | | |
| <u>Parks and Recreation</u> | | |
| Exp: 106600.740 | \$5,550.00 | |
| <i>Capital Outlay-Equipment</i> | | |
| Exp: 106600.450 | | \$500.00 |
| <i>Contracted Services</i> | | |
| Rev: 103190.050 | \$5,050.00 | |
| <i>FBA</i> | | |
| | | |
| <u>Motor Pool</u> | | |
| Exp: 105010.571 | \$2,000.00 | |
| <i>Misc. Wrecker Expense</i> | | |
| Rev: 103560.082 | | \$2,000.00 |
| <i>Motor Pool Vehicle Storage</i> | | |

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Library

Exp: 106700.280 \$740.00

Audiovisuals

Rev: 103190.010 \$740.00

The Community Foundation
of the News River Valley -
Endowed

D. Approve County Attorney Invoices

- \$770.00
- 4,500.00

E. Approve Tax Refunds and Releases Docket #___

F. Approve Resolution Supporting the Extension of Industrial Park Drive

WHEREAS, the Elizabethtown Airport Industrial Park is important to the economic development efforts of Bladen County; and,

WHEREAS, this industrial park is being extended to Mercer Mill Road; and,

WHEREAS, Aviation Drive is located in the Elizabethtown Airport Industrial Park.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bladen County Board of Commissioners supports the extension of Aviation Drive from Executive Drive to Mercer Mill Road.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be mailed to the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Adopted this 25th day of March, 2008.

G. Approve Resolution Supporting the Widening of Hwy 701 North

WHEREAS, Highway 701 is a main connector from White Lake to Elizabethtown; and,

WHEREAS, this section of Highway 701 is heavily traveled.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bladen County Board of Commissioners supports the widening of Highway 701 to three lanes from NC 53 North to White Lake.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be mailed to the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Adopted this 25th day of March, 2008

H. Approve Incentive Grant Agreement with Bladen Composites, LLC (formerly Palmer Marine, Inc.)

I. Approve Lease Agreement with State of North Carolina

J. Approve Lease Agreement with Bladen's Bloomin' Agri-Industrial, Inc.

K. Approve Agreement with Robert S. Segal



LETTER OF AGREEMENT

Robert S. Segal, CPA, PA (SEGAL) and Bladen County (CLIENT) hereby enter into this Letter of Agreement whereby SEGAL shall serve as a consultant to CLIENT to examine and analyze the following listed expenses/revenues of CLIENT and to make recommendations to achieve savings, credits, refunds or additional revenues, hereafter referred to as funds, in these areas:

Wireless services

SEGAL will furnish CLIENT with a written report as to recommendations that may be made in the above areas. CLIENT will then determine which (if any) of these recommendations CLIENT wishes to implement. SEGAL will then assist in the implementation of these recommendations to achieve the funds. Future savings and revenues are computed on a per unit basis.

CLIENT agrees to pay SEGAL on each recommendation for funds which is implemented, a fee equal to fifty (50) cents of every dollar saved, credited, refunded or additional revenues during the 24 month period immediately following full implementation of the recommendation. This fee will be paid quarterly following the date of full implementation of the particular recommendation.

SEGAL AGREES TO MAINTAIN IN STRICT CONFIDENCE ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM CLIENT CONCERNING ITS EXPENSES AND METHODS OF DOING BUSINESS. FURTHERMORE, SEGAL ACTS AS A CONSULTANT ONLY AND DOES NOT RECEIVE ANY COMMISSIONS OR REMUNERATION OF ANY KIND FROM ANY VENDORS OR SERVICE PROVIDERS.

The persons signing below are authorized to do so on behalf of their respective organizations.

This Letter of Agreement shall be binding upon the parties hereto, their heirs, successors and assigns. This Letter of Agreement is entered into effective as of ___ day of ___

CLIENT: Bladen County
By: _____
Title: _____

Robert S. Segal, CPA PA
By: 
Title: President

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L. Approve Lease Agreement for Plant Protection Witchweed Eradication Program Office

ITEM 2. Consider Closed Session in Accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3) Attorney Client Privilege

A motion was made by Billy Ray Pait, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to enter Closed Session.

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

ITEM 3. Individuals/Delegations Wishing to Address Commissioners:

ITEM 4. Bladen County Hospital:

A. Consider Resolution Approving the Sale or Lease of Bladen County Hospital

Upon a motion made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Larry Smith the Board approved a Resolution approving the sale or lease of Bladen County Hospital subject to final approval of the county attorney and chairperson of the Bladen County Board of Commissioners.

B. Consider Bladen County Hospital Retiree Health Coverage

A motion was made James G. Smith, seconded by Larry Smith and approved to provide existing Bladen County Hospital Retirees with Health Insurance Coverage until age 65. Health Insurance Coverage will also be provided to approximately seven existing employees who are eligible to retire before June 1, 2008 and who are eligible for full retirement benefits before age 65.

ITEM 5. Community Development Block Grant Program: (Adrian Lowery, Housing Specialist)

- Public Hearing Regarding Close-Out of 2005 Scattered Site Housing Project

Chairperson Moore declared the Public Hearing Open

- Mrs. Odell Richardson thanked the Board for its assistance in providing her with a nice home. She stated that she loves the home and is taking great pride in her home.
- Sheila McMillian expressed her appreciation for her new home.

Chairperson Moore declared the Public Hearing Closed.

ITEM 6. Bladen County Water District: (Randy Garner, Director)

A. Update Regarding Phase III South

A motion was made by Delilah Blanks, seconded by W.D. Neill, Jr. and approved to enter session as the Bladen County Water District Board of Directors.

- The Board agreed to make the following changes to the Proposed Phase III South Water Project:
Delete Roads: Boggy-Branch Road, Vause Road, and Elwell Ferry Road.
Alternative Roads to Receive User Participation Agreements: Grimes Road, Grimes-Singleton Road, Baldwin Branch Road, Old NC 20, and Hickory Grove Ball Park Road.

A motion was made by Greg Taylor, seconded by James G. Smith and approved to proceed with an iron removal filtering system at Tobermory Well.

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B. Consider Approving Professional Services Agreement with Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates, P.A.

Upon a motion made by Billy Ray Pait, seconded by Delilah Blanks, the Board approved a Professional Services Agreement with Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates, P.A.

ITEM 7. Revenue Department: (Livingston Lewis, Interim Director)

A. Consider a Public Auction for Disposal of County Surplus Real Property

Upon a motion made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Larry Smith, the Board authorized staff to move forward with the necessary steps associated with conducting a public auction for disposal of county surplus real property.

B. Consider Billing Property Taxes by Parcel Identification Number

A motion was made by W.D. Neill, Jr., seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to bill property taxes by parcel identification number rather than account number.

ITEM 8. Advisory Boards:

A. Bladenboro Rural Fire District Committee (2)

A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by James G. Smith and approved to re-appoint Ronnie McLean and Jennifer Carroll to serve on the Bladenboro Rural Fire District Committee with an expiration date of April 4, 2010.

B. Carvers Creek Fire District Committee (1)

A motion was made by W.D. Neill, Jr., seconded by Billy Ray Pait and approved to re-appoint Sandra Blanks to the Carvers Creek Fire District Committee with an expiration date of April 5, 2010.

C. Keep Bladen Beautiful (3)

A motion was made by James G. Smith, seconded by Delilah Blanks and approved to re-appoint John Henry Creeh, Jeff Musselwhite, and Eddie Walters to serve on the Keep Bladen Beautiful Board with expiration dates of March 31, 2008.

D. Southeastern Economic Development Commission (1)

A motion was made by Billy Ray Pait, seconded by Delilah Blanks and approved to re-appoint Ophelia Munn Goins to the Southeastern Economic Development Commission with an expiration date of March 31, 2011.

E. Bladen County Nursing Home Advisory Committee

A motion was made by W.D. Neill, Jr., seconded by Billy Ray Pait and approved to re-appoint Marie Faulk and Cleveland Avant Brown to the Bladen County Nursing Home Advisory Committee with an expiration date of March 25, 2011.

F. Elizabethtown Rural Fire District Committee (4)

A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by James G. Smith and approved to table until the April 7, 2008 meeting.

ITEM 9. Matters of Interest to Commissioners:

- Commissioner Peterson asked Mr. Martin for the status on building a new EMS building. Mr. Martin stated it was an item of priority in the Capital Improvement Plan.

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- Commissioner Blanks expressed a concern regarding the need for additional signage on Borrow Pitt Road and Black Rock Road.

ITEM 10. County Manager: (Greg Martin)

A. Calendar Update – Mr. Martin reviewed the calendar for upcoming events.

B. Consider Bids to Acquire County Property (7)

Upon a motion by James G. Smith, seconded by W.D. Neill, Jr., the Board rejected the following bids:

| Received By: | Location: | Bid Deposit Paid (5%) | Bid Amount: |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Lewis Purdie | 769 John Owen Rd. White Oak, NC 28399 | \$125.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| Alexander Hester | Off of Chancey Rd. Clarkton, NC 28433 | \$50.00 | \$1000.00 |
| Alexander Hester | Across from 630 Governors Estate Dr. Elizabethtown, NC 28337 | \$50.00 | \$1000.00 |
| Dallas Knight | 769 John Owen Rd. White Oak, NC 28399 | \$100.00 | \$2000.00 |
| Clayton Tatum | Lot Beside 92 Mill Pond Circle Bladenboro, NC 28320 | \$84.80 | \$1696.00 |
| Clayton Tatum | Across from 630 Governors Estate Dr. Elizabethtown, NC 28337 | \$105.20 | \$2104.00 |

C. Consider Closed Session in Accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3) Attorney Client Privilege, (a)(6) Personnel Matters

A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Greg Taylor and approved to enter closed session.

A motion was made by Charles Ray Peterson, seconded by Lewis Tatum and approved to exit closed session.

Upon a motion by Lewis Tatum, seconded by Greg Taylor, the Board accepted a bid in the amount of \$2,500 received by Lewis Purdie for county property located at 769 John Owen Rd. White Oak, NC, and identified as PIN 1304-0038-115.

A motion was made by Lewis Tatum, seconded by Billy Ray Pait and approved to adjourn at 9:10 pm.

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

ATTEST:

Ashley C. Sasser, Clerk