

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 04, 2016

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 04, 2016, in the Board of Commissioners' Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members present: Chairman Craig Hill, Commissioners, Roland Best, Reuben Davis, Eric Rouse, and Linda Rouse Sutton.

Members Absent: Jackie Brown, and Mac Daughety.

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Officer, Vickie F. King, Clerk to the Board, Joey Bryan, MIS Director, Robert Griffin, County Attorney, members of the general public and news media.

Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Ms Sutton offered the Invocation and Mr. Rouse led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, to excuse Commissioners Jackie Brown and Mac Daughety from the meeting.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Ms. Angela Bates, Executive Director of Green Lamp, stated every year Green Lamp is required by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to submit funding applications for the Community Services Block Grant. Prior to their submission to the state office, they are required to forward it to the Commissioners within the Counties they serve for a thirty (30) day review/comment period. This upcoming year the agency will be receiving \$212,000 in funding to serve thirty-six (36) families with twenty-seven (27) of them in Lenoir County, and nine (9) in Greene County. One of Green Lamp's goals this year is to move more families above the federal poverty guidelines of 22% to 22-25%, by helping them obtain employment, and by continuing to provide comprehensive case management and support services. Our case managers will work with participants to alleviate causes of poverty such as: inadequate education, lack of training, lack of job-seeking skill, lack of daycare and/or transportation, and inadequate housing or poor money management. Ms. Bates thanked the Board for their time and asked if anyone had any questions. The Board thanked Ms. Bates for her presentation.

Mr. C. Dean Horne, C.P.A., Carr Riggs & Ingram, addressed the Board and presented the FY15-16 audit of Lenoir County. He highlighted three (3) separate auditor reports and said all of the reports give an "unqualified" opinion.

Mr. Horne explained how the unassigned fund balance is one of the benchmarks the Local Government Commission uses to determine the financial stability of a County. Mr. Horne mentioned the County did not have to go into its' Fund Balance this year because the County had a break-even year and were well above their goals. This Board has adopted that they would like to maintain an available Fund Balance at the end of the year of 20% of expenditures.

The County ended the year at 35% which is well above the goal of 20%. Mr. Horne mentioned the entire audit was over 168 pages and if the Board had any questions concerning the audit, to feel free to call his office for further explanation. Mr. Jarman stated for clarification, just in case someone might think the county is 15% above our goal, the goal was 20% in the unassigned and that decreased to 17.7% this year. The 35% includes assigned and unassigned Fund Balances. So in essence the County has not exceeded its' goal by 15%. Chairman Hill thanked Mr. Horne and commended the Department Heads and their staff for their good work through such difficult financial times.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: December 7, 2015.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:

Item No. 2 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Capital Improvements Fund: Economic Development: \$37,500 Increase. Ms. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated this amendment is to appropriate State One NC Funds received by the county for Pactiv LLC. A check in the amount of \$37,500 was received on December 15, 2015 for the expansion of Pactiv Project #2014-16039. This expansion was announced in August of 2013 and is a pass through grant. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Rouse, Item No. 2 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 3 was a Resolution Approving Fifteen (15) Additional Part-time Vehicle Operator Positions. Ms. Angie Greene, Transit Director, stated Lenoir County Transit (LCT) is no longer allowed to increase the working hours of part time Vehicle Operators in order to accommodate the demand for service generated by the citizens of Lenoir County. Currently, part time employees can work a maximum of 999 hours in any twelve month period, which equals to 19 hours per week or 83 hours per month. With the number of Vehicle Operators Lenoir County Transit currently has, running enough routes to meet demand in a timely manner has become impossible. The LCT application to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for replacement vehicles was not fully approved this fiscal year because NCDOT does not feel the vehicles LCT currently has are being fully utilized. If fifteen additional Vehicle Operator positions are approved, Lenoir County Transit would be able to better utilize vehicles, and in turn, LCT would be able to better serve the citizens of Lenoir County. Mr. Jarman stated Ms. Greene submitted October and November monthly statistics for Lenoir County Transit which is listed under Items from County Manager. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 3 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 4 was a Resolution Approving the Purchase and Installation of Norcold Refrigerators on six (6) Wheeled Coach Ambulances: Select Custom Apparatus: \$11,344.80. Mr. Roger Dail, EMS Director, stated the Lenoir County Emergency Services Department (EMS) maintains a fleet of twelve (12) ambulances. The layout of our ambulances provides ample room in the right front cabinet to be easily modified to provide room for the refrigerator and keep cost at a minimum. Providing a refrigerator will assist in our daily operations, cut cost in our medical supply budget, and will provide a good foundation to allow us to continue to grow and expand our medical scope of practice. The EMS Director is recommending the purchase and installation of Norcold Refrigerators on six (6) Wheeled Coach Ambulances. Staff feels that installing a refrigerator in the box of our ambulances will cut cost in medical supplies by a minimum of \$1,400 per year.

As well as assist in our daily operations by allowing crews to carry their medications and fluids that are required to be refrigerated. Also, it will assist in providing a good foundation and platform to continue to grow and expand our medical scope of practice. Approval of this purchase will allow for the encumbrance of funds and payment to the vendor upon delivery of the ambulance. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No 4 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 5 was a Resolution Approving the Remount of a 2003 Ford E450 Wheeled Coach Ambulance Box: Select Custom Apparatus: \$85,425.25. Mr. Dail stated the Lenoir County Emergency Services Department (EMS) maintains a fleet of twelve (12) ambulances. Approximately one-half (1/2) of the units in the fleet are in need of replacement as soon as possible, but budget constraints have hampered this objective. Regular replacements have not been possible in the past few years. The EMS Director is recommending remounting the box on a 2003 Ford E450 with 240,409 miles on a new chassis during this fiscal year. Staff feels that remounting the box of this truck onto a new 2016 Ford V-10 gas chassis will be the best course of action for additional unit replacement. This 2003 Ford requires upgrades to the box due to its age and outdated equipment. A new truck would cost \$140,000 to \$160,000, with a remount, including upgrades to the box, would only cost the County approximately \$85,425.25. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Best, Item No 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: DSS: \$25,000 Increase. Ms. Susan Moore, Director of Social Services, stated this amendment is to increase the State Foster Care line item by \$100,000. This increase is necessary to cover expenditures for FY15-16 due to an increase in the number of children in foster care. Part of this transfer is a request to use all county funds of \$25,000 from line item 10-5362-4972 (ABA WD/E&T), and to draw down additional state funds of \$25,000. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Authorizing FY15-16 Contract to Home Transport Services for the Department of Social Services: \$525,000. Ms. Moore stated all contracts in the amount of \$2,500 or greater require the approval by the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners approved a contract with R&W Transportation on June 15, 2015 in the amount of \$525,000 for Medicaid transportation services. Effective January 31, 2016 R&W Transportation will be dissolving their business. This contract with Home Transport Services will replace R&W Transportation contract. Medicaid transportation is a 100% Federal and State match program. Mr. Hill asked if the contract was comparable to the previous one. Ms. Moore stated that it was. Mr. Jarman stated the contract was for the same amount and the Board is not approving to spend any additional money. Upon a motion by Mr. Best and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution Approving Lenoir County Planning & Inspections to Reinstate Term Limits for Planning Board Members. Mr. Jarman stated Mr. Gary O'Neal, Planning & Inspections Director, and Mr. Wayland Humphrey, GIS Coordinator are both out of town. Mr. Jarman stated on February 7, 2011, the County Commissioners approved a request from the Planning Board to suspend the term limits for Board members. This was in part due to the board historically having problems with obtaining a quorum of members for scheduled meetings as well as having members to fill the entire Planning Board. Since that decision, the Planning Board has not had any problems with a quorum and now has a full roster of nine (9) members. The integrity and functionality of the Planning Board is now consistent enough that the Planning Board membership can be appointed and administered as authorized by the Zoning Ordinance. Applying the term limits of two (2) three year terms, the Planning Board would effectively be left with five (5) members whose terms have not expired, and with only four (4) needed for a quorum. This would allow the Planning Board to remain intact and thus allowing development to continue to progress throughout the County.

The Commissioners would then be tasked to seek citizens within vacant Planning Districts for appointment to the Planning Board. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hill stated he greatly appreciates the members that have served for quite some time, especially when we were having a difficult time getting citizens to serve. They have served us well for a long period of time. I urge the citizens of Lenoir County in the different areas of the community that are represented by the Planning Board to apply for the available positions. It would be nice to have multiple choices to sit down and review for consideration of vacancies. This is one of the things we sought to do last year, and we have begun the process and will continue with it throughout this year. We have very important committees that the citizens of our community can be involved in. I encourage our citizens to apply and to look into the vacancies. It's important that we're able to select the citizens that can serve at the highest level. I encourage our commissioners to encourage the citizens in your district and areas to apply for these positions when they become available. Again, I would like to thank the members of the Planning Board that will no longer serve in that capacity, and we commend them for their services.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 9, was unanimously approved for Ms. Jean King and Ms. Mallie B. Stocks appointment to the Lenoir County Nursing Home & Adult Care Board.

Item No. 10 was Items from the County Manager. Mr. Jarman stated the financial performance summary, permit/inspection report, and the monthly report from Transit Department are self explanatory. There will be a meeting at the CSS Neuse Interpretive Center on January 12, 2016 from 7:00-8:30 pm regarding the Wyse Fork Battlefield National Register Historic District. Mr. Jarman asked Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development Director to come to the podium to share information regarding this meeting.

Mr. Pope stated as a quick reminder, our office was made aware of the proposal through an email asking for a letter to support designating over 4,000 acres as the Wyse Fork Battlefield National Register Historic District. In Lenoir County alone there are over 350 landowners that could be affected. As our department does support things like this in the historic area, we cannot support including all 4,000 acres as proposed. Supporting the entire 4,000 acres could limit the available funding opportunities for infrastructure improvements and may limit residential, commercial, retail, and industrial growth in this and possibly surrounding areas. A lot of our grants come through the federal government as we receive CDBG grants for infrastructure. If this proposal is approved it could limit or prohibit the County from getting new federal grants in this area. There was a public meeting held at Lenoir Community College, and from my knowledge only four (4) or five (5) landowners were present. Since there are over 350 landowners in that area we felt like they were not aware of what was going on or the potential impact on their property in the future. We sent a letter of non-support stating we were in support of the twenty-three (23) individual sites submitted to the national registry if the landowner is knowledgeable of what is going on. There is a local group of land owners working together that have been in conversation with the state. We are urging citizens and landowners in this area that are affected to attend this meeting to see the possible impacts, gather information, and have the opportunity to ask questions. Again the meeting will be held Thursday, January 12th from 7:00pm – 8:30 pm at the CSS Neuse.

Mr. Hill stated he received a letter yesterday from Mr. Lyle Holland who is the chairman of the Lenoir County Battlefield Commission; Mr. Hill urged each Commissioner to pay close attention to the contents of the letter. Accompanying that letter were several other letters from different organizations affiliated with and in support of the Battlefield proposal. Mr. Hill read the contents of one of the letters received.

Mr. Hill mentioned he attended the meeting at LCC and there were very few landowners present. The majority of the people present were involved in the historic battlefield mission. I think this upcoming meeting is a very important and necessary meeting and I encourage and hope our landowners will show up. Mr. Rouse asked if we would notify landowners ourselves this time about the process. Mr. Jarman replied we are going to make an effort to get the information out this week to notify landowners. Mr. Pope stated the historic registry would vote on it at the national level in Washington, DC in January and we will see where it will go from there. Mr. Hill encouraged the Board to attend the meeting on January 12th.

Mr. Jarman stated East Carolina Auction will be conducting an auction for the land/property that was donated to the County. The proceeds will go to Kinston High School students for scholarships. The auction sale will take place this Saturday January 9th at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Rouse if he had any information on the Queen Street Bridge project. Mr. Rouse replied he will have an update on Queen Street and the River Walk projects at the next meeting.

Mr. Hill mentioned he will be attending the Education Steering Committee meeting and if anyone had information they would like to send feel free to do so.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie F. King
Clerk to the Board