

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 7, 2008

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 7, 2008 in the Board of Commissioners Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members present: Chairman Paul Taylor; Vice-Chairman George Graham and Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Claude Davis, Earl Harper, Chris Humphrey, and Claude Stroud.

Members absent: None

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager; Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager; Robert Griffin, County Attorney; Lashanda Aytch, Clerk to the Board; and members of the general public and the news media.

Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Ms. Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Graham led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Presentation of the Lenoir County, North Carolina Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007 by the Lenoir County Finance Department and Pittard, Perry & Crone: Mr. C. Dean Horne, CPA. Mr. Horne stated the section entitled "Management Discussion and Analyst" comes from Mr. Jarman and Mr. Hollowell, Finance Director. This is the fourth year this section has been implemented in the report. The highest level of opinion that an auditor can give is called an "unqualified opinion." This means that all audit tests were complete and no items were reported. Lenoir County government has received an "unqualified opinion." Under Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – General Fund (page 19) shows the reader what the county's original budget was, and what changes were made to that budget throughout the year. Total revenues budgeted were \$54,249,238 and actual revenues were \$54,691,180, represents a total of \$441,951 more in revenue than what was anticipated. Total expenditures budgeted were \$51,686,546 and actual expenditures were \$47,977,303. The net assets of the Landfill Fund total \$2,496,730; revues budgeted were \$2,741,045, actual revenues were \$3,024,157, leaving a total of \$283,112 more in projected revenues. Mr. Humphrey asked Mr. Horne did he find any problems with any department while completing the audit. Mr. Horne stated there were no non-compliance reports from any department in the county. The Board thanked Mr. Horne and his staff for all their work.

Mr. Taylor asked each Board member to be prepared to give an update on each of their respective Boards at a previous meeting. The Board issued their report as follows: Mr. Taylor stated that Southeast Elementary School along with Mr. Jimbo Perry has started a program called "Little by Little," which gives every student a \$50.00 certificate every nine weeks for good grades in school. These certificates will be saved for the student and will be given to them when they finish high school to pay to the college of their choice.

Wayne County's RFQ was sent to over 30 vendors. They received 9 proposals, interviewed 4 companies and chose Fugro EarthData, Inc. Wayne County's RFQ was very similar to Lenoir County's, and after meeting with Fugro EarthData, Inc., it was determined that they could meet all of the departments needs and requirements. The orthos will be paid for out of the 911 wireless funds. The cost of \$58,849 is a discounted fee (\$13,100 savings) due to Lenoir County partnering with Wayne County for the aerial acquisition. The contract calls for the project to meet or exceed all standards for the NC OneMap Framework Ortho Imagery Cost-Share Program, which will allow Lenoir County to receive a minimum reimbursement of \$7,838. This reduces the net cost to \$51,011. Up-to-date, high quality orthos provide benefits for several departments within Lenoir County. The Tax Department uses them for assessment purposes, and with the revaluation becoming effective 1/1/09, new orthos would be a tremendous help. Emergency Services, Planning, and Economic Development also benefit from having up-to-date aerial imagery. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 9B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10A was Resolution Approving Presentation of Badge and Service Weapon to Retiring Captain Mike Hatcher. Sheriff Smith presented Mr. Hatcher with a plaque and his service weapon for his 30 years of valuable service to the citizens of Lenoir County. Sheriff Smith thanked Mr. Hatcher for his support and continued service to his fellow officers. Mr. Hatcher thanked the Board for their support during his career in Lenoir County. The Board wished Mr. Hatcher well in his future endeavors.

Item No. 10B was a Resolution Approving Retirement of Canine and Transfer of its Ownership. Sheriff Smith stated for the past several years the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office has utilized specially trained canines to perform search and defensive functions, currently, the Sheriff's Office has four canines performing these types of functions. Duke is a Belgium Malawa assigned to Deputy Thomas Stanley. This animal was purchased approximately 6 years ago and has been assigned to two different handlers in its lifetime. Duke has performed admirably in finding hidden narcotics and criminals that have fled from crime scenes. Over the past year Duke has developed an uncontrollable temperament, which is unsuitable for law enforcement work and is a liability for the County. Consequently, the Sheriff has removed Duke from service. Deputy Thomas Stanley has been the dog's handler for the past 5 years and desires to keep the animal for personal use. The Sheriff respectfully recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve the request to retire Duke from service and to transfer ownership to Deputy Thomas Stanley. Upon a motion by Mr. Stroud and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 10B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10C was a Resolution Approving Purchase Order with Down East Protection Systems: \$4,456.23. Sheriff Smith stated the Sheriff's Office impound lot is a barbed wire fenced area located near the fairgrounds. The lot is utilized as an area to park vehicles that have been seized by the Sheriff's Office as evidence or other legal reasons. The lot currently has approximately 20 vehicles parked within the fenced area. During the past two weeks, the impound lot was entered and several vehicles were forcefully broken into. Several car stereo systems were stolen during the incident. Down East Protection Systems has provided the County with the camera system in the Courthouse as well as other security features. Representatives from Down East Protection Systems have examined the lot and presented the Sheriff's Office with its options for security at the lot. The cost to provide an alarm system at the impound lot is \$4,456.23. Funding for the system will come from the Sheriff's 2007-2008 fiscal budget. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 10C was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10D was a Resolution Approving Purchase Order with the Royal Coat: \$9,800. Sheriff Smith stated the Lenoir County Jail system consists of two independent jails, one located on the 4th floor of the courthouse and the other in the basement. The main jail (basement) consists of five cellblocks, which have cement floors. Over the years the cement floors have been repeatedly painted with epoxy paint. Because of the high foot traffic on these floors, the epoxy paint lasts approximately 6-8 months before they began to show considerable wear. The epoxy paint has worn away leaving the floors uncovered and having an unsightly appearance. In an effort to discover alternatives to past painting practices for the jail floors a jail construction expert was consulted and provided the Sheriff's Office with an alternative. The Franklin County Sheriff's Office jail was contacted about a new flooring system they had installed one-year prior. The method utilizes a xylene-based product to cover the floors. According to the representatives of the Franklin County jail, the floors of the jail were finished as well as other high traffic areas within the courthouse and show no wear. Royal Coat of New Bern provided an estimate of \$4,900 per cellblock (1200 sq. ft) to perform the work. The quote includes diamond grinding the floors, applying a penetrating coating and two coats of an acrylic paint with a flake appearance. According to Royal Coat, the coating should last 12-15 years. The Sheriff will complete a budget amendment to transfer \$9800 from 10-4320-3999 (Contracted Services Safekeeping) to 10-10-4320-5100 (Capital Outlay). The excess funds in Contracted Services Safekeeping were not tapped during the jail door refit project. The department only intends to have the floors refinished in the two cellblocks that recently underwent the jail door refit. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 10D was unanimously approved.

Item 10E was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Sheriff/Process Funds: \$15,000: Increase. Upon a motion by Ms. Stroud and a second by Mr. Harper, Item No. 10E was unanimously approved.

Sheriff Smith stated the jail population issue has been addressed several times. The Sheriff's Department has been working constantly to get the jail population down. The court liaison and house arrest programs initial set up fee was \$176,000; but due to the effectiveness of both programs the department has saved \$180,000. There are 16 people on house arrest; several of those inmates had heart problems, kidney conditions etc. The two officers, who monitor the programs mentioned previously, are also in charge of monitoring the counties 110-sex offenders as well. The Nar Test Program is going well also. The Nar Test gives a positive or negative result in 15-20 minutes regarding drugs found out in the field. The program is in its beginning stages, but several counties such as Onslow and Cabarrus and the City of Jacksonville have already been paid by the state for using the program. The program is working and Lenoir County will be moving forward with Nar Testing. Mr. Graham asked how much longer can the county go without building a new jail. Sheriff Smith stated the county is still near or at capacity; the county should not put off construction any longer.

Item No. 11A was a Resolution Authorizing Replacement of Truck Scales: AAA Scale Company: \$42,558. Mr. Tom Miller, Landfill Director, addressed the Board. Mr. Miller stated North Carolina General Statutes require all counties to maintain accurate material weights of all debris disposed of in the landfill. Truck scales are used to weigh all incoming debris. The existing truck scales have developed a serious crack and are beyond repair. The average life of above ground scales is 15 years. The existing scales were set in 1990.

These calibrated scales weigh in and out approximately 125 vehicles each day. In November 2007, the inspector with the N. C. Department of Agriculture Standards Division stated the scales passed the present inspection, but without replacement, they would fail the next inspection due to inaccurate readings and safety issues. The department recently placed sheet metal on the scales to keep them from collapsing until the replacement is completed. AAA Scale Company provided the county with the best proposal to replace the existing truck scales and guard rails. Approval of this resolution will provide for the encumbrance of funds and payment upon completion of the project. Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 11A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11B was a Resolution Authorizing Grinding of Collected Concrete: Site Maxx: \$55,200. Mr. Miller stated Gravel is used to maintain grounds, driveways and entrances at the nine (9) recycling sites located throughout the county and also to provide passable roadways to the MSW (app. 1 mile), C & D, and LCID location sites at the Lenoir County Landfill. Currently the landfill sends a truck to New Bern to purchase gravel for \$225-\$275 per load (approximately 9-10 tons). There is approximately 8,000 tons of collected concrete located at the Lenoir County Landfill. Site Maxx will grind the concrete at a cost of \$6.90 per ton. The concrete will be weighed during the course of grinding to provide an accurate invoiced weight cost. Site Maxx will cover all their mobilization costs. The County is presently paying \$225-275 per load (9-10 tons) plus fuel, labor, and wear and tear on the roll-off trucks to travel to New Bern when gravel is needed. The ground concrete will be stored on the landfill site grounds eliminating the present transportation costs. Recycling the collected concrete will save the county the cost of purchasing gravel, the cost of transporting the gravel from the supplier, and will save landfill airspace, thus prolonging the useful life the current landfill. Site Maxx is the only known concrete crusher/grinder in this area. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 11B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11C was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Solid Waste Management: Landfill: \$97,758: Increase. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 11C was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Authorizing a Public Hearing be Conducted by the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners at their Regularly Scheduled Meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 in Regards to Applying for a Clean Water Trust Fund Grant for Approximately 2.1 Million Dollars to be Used for a Combined Reuse Water Project and the Development of a Battlefield Parkway. Mr. Bill Ellis, Parks and Recreation Director addressed the Board. Mr. Ellis stated the grant will fund pump stations and a four (4) inch water line from the Northside Treatment Facility to the Rivermont flood buyout property and will also be used to develop a Battlefield Parkway on this property by replanting the area in natural vegetation and irrigating it with the reuse water from the Northside Treatment Facility. The grant will also be used to remove existing roads and utility infrastructure. The Committee of 100 has committed to fund the local match for this grant. The Battlefield Parkway will be an economic development project, which will attract Heritage Tourists to Lenoir County and will also provide an aesthetically pleasing entranceway into our community. This parkway will have signage and monuments recognizing units that fought on these grounds and will also provide a countywide park that will be maintained by the Lenoir County Parks & Recreation Department. This will require future funding for maintenance of this additional acreage. There will be no county monies involved in establishing the project, but the county would be responsible for the maintenance of the site. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Authorizing a Public Hearing be Conducted by the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners at the Regularly Scheduled Meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 in Regards to Applying for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant (PARTF) in the Amount of \$500,000 to be used for the Development of a Lenoir County Soccer Complex. Mr. Ellis stated this grant would be used to fund a countywide soccer complex located at the old Harper Salvage property on Highway 11/55 South. The park will have approximately ten (10) soccer fields, parking and concessions. Lenoir County’s match will be \$300,000 over a three (3) year period or \$100,000 per budget year. The remaining \$200,000 local match will be met by using Clean Water Trust Fund monies to irrigate the soccer complex with reuse water. The Soccer Complex will allow participants to play at a state of the art countywide facility that will be used for local, regional, and national soccer events. If this grant is funded, Lenoir County will receive a 1 million-dollar soccer complex with only spending \$300,000 of local money. It will also allow Barnet Park to be used entirely as a softball facility for tournaments and local play. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS

Item No. 14 was a Resolution Appointing Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. The following reflects existing vacancies and appointments.

<u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u>	<u>APPLICANT/ CURRENT MEMBER</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
Kinston-Lenoir Tourism Development Authority 1st Appearance	Lucille Harrison (Appointment)	June 2008

CURRENT VACANCIES:

- Lenoir County Health Board – One (1) Vacancy; (1) Veterinarian**
- Grifton Planning Board – One (1) Vacancy**
- JCPC – One (1) Vacancy; 1-Juvenile Attorney**
- Lenoir County Planning Board – K-6 Precinct & At-Large**
- CJPP – Four (4) Vacancies**
- Kinston Board of Adjustment – Two (2) ETJ Members; (1) Primary – (1) Alternate**
- Lenoir County Transportation Committee – At Large Member – Business Community**

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager