

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 18, 2011

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4:00 pm on Tuesday January 18, 2011 in the Board of Commissioners Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members present: Chairman George Graham, Vice-Chairman Reuben Davis and Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Mac Daughety, Tommy Pharo, Eric Rouse and Linda Rouse Sutton.

Members absent: None

Also present were: Michael Jarman, County Manager, Martha Martin, Finance Officer, Robert Griffin, County Attorney; Lashanda A. Hall, Clerk to the Board; and members of the general public and the news media.

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 pm. Ms. Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Graham led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Ms. Tammy Kelly and Dr. Stan Dixon of North Carolina Cooperative Extension addressed The Board about the Farm and Forrest Preservation Plan (FFPP). Dr. Dixon stated he would assist in identifying issues and provide recommendations for actions to encourage programs and policies to support farm and forestland preservation. The FFPP describes the current state of agriculture in the county; outlines the challenges and opportunities for agriculture and agribusiness that exist in the county; and list a set of recommendations that will help maintain the family farm and forestland. Currently, there are only 20 counties out of North Carolina's 100 with a certified FFPP. Each plan is endorsed by the County Board of Commissioners and certified by the NC Department of Agriculture. Counties with a certified FFPP receive priority status when seeking funding for Farmland Preservation and Agricultural development grants from the Agricultural Development and Farm and Preservation Trust Fund (ADFP). It is necessary to have the commitment of a team that understands the components, development and review of the FFPP to develop a good plan. Team members will be asked to promote the completion of surveys and participate in interviews that will be conducted; provide much needed feedback on the direction of the FFPP; supply data and information to help augment the FFPP; and concur on recommendations so that agriculture and the county can benefit from the FFPP. Surveys were inserted in each Board Members packet for review and completion. The response to the surveys will help us to better understand the needs of the industry and will also be used to evaluate existing and potential economic incentives which may benefit farmers and agribusiness. Dr. Dixon stated it is the hope of the FFP to save the family farms so they can stay in business and stay profitable. The Board thanked Ms. Kelly and Dr. Dixon for their presentation.

Mr. Daughety stated there is concern among citizens of the county regarding non-emergency transport. Due to these concerns Mr. Daughety made a motion for the county to form a committee consisting of five to seven people to see how services can be improved, if the service is funded properly or if the service should be out-sourced; Daughety's motion was seconded by Mr. Rouse. Mr. Roger Dail, Emergency Services Director addressed the Board. Mr. Dail stated that he along with other EMS personnel met with all local fire chiefs last week to discuss any concerns regarding emergency and non-emergency services. During that meeting none of the fire chiefs voiced any type of issues concerning non-emergency services. Mr. Dail asked if the concerns regard non-emergency transport where in regards to operations or using emergency trucks to do non-emergency calls. Mr.

Daughety stated he wants a committee to review how Non-Emergency-EMS is operated in general from all aspects. Mr. Jarman stated that service and policy should be reviewed but EMS operations should be managed by the EMS Director. Mr. Jarman stated he is fine with a committee, but does not want it to appear that services have not been reviewed in the past five years; Non-Emergency operations are discussed annually during the budget process. Mr. Graham cautioned the Board on where the county stood on emergency services a few years ago; what services were available and contracted out. The Board tried outside agencies to do non-emergency service but ended up having to provide the service to the citizens of Lenoir County. Mr. Dail stated he has no problem with a committee reviewing non-emergency services, but recommends the Medical Director for the county be chairman of this committee. The Medical Director decides whether to hire or fire anyone in a medical position working for the county. Mr. Daughety stated he wanted a fair and balanced committee, representing all areas of Lenoir County and nominated Ms. Sutton to represent the Board on the committee. Mr. Daughety stated he would like to have seven members on the committee. Mr. Davis stated if the committee is too large it may defeat its original purpose. Mr. Graham stated the Board does not need to send out false signals which would give the impression that the services are not working; non-emergency services is a revenue producing service and is being operated well by EMS staff. Mr. Davis recommended a listing of potential committee members be reviewed at the next Board meeting. The recommendation was agreed upon unanimously.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Item No. 2 was Items from the County Manager. Mr. Jarman reminded the Board of the Legislative Goals Conference, January 20-21st in Raleigh. Ms. Brown will be attending the conference as the voting delegate for the county. The NACo Legislative Conference will be held March 5-9th in Washington, DC: a head count is needed by February 7, 2011 of who will be attending the conference. Jail construction is still on schedule. A budget work session will follow after the February 7, 2011 Board meeting.

Mr. Daughety wanted to know the status of the county joining the Military Growth Task Force. Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, stated joining the task force would cost \$6200 annually and require a two year commitment. Mr. Pope stated there are still unanswered questions on the effectiveness of the task force. It is not known if Spirit or the GTP Foundation are aware of the Task Forces interest in Lenoir County.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Pharo, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: January 3, 2011

Hall/Jarman

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS

Item No. 4 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Sheriff's Department: \$17,202.25: Increase. Ms. Martin stated the amendment budgeted funds from HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) and OCEDTF (Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force) grants. These are federal programs that target organized crime and narcotics. These funds are on a reimbursement basis. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 5 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: DSS: \$105,229: Increase. Mr. Jack Jones, Director of Social Service, addressed the Board. Mr. Jones stated the amendment is a line item adjustment to reflect actual allocation received. Crisis Intervention funds are 100% Federal and State Funds used to assist with heating and cooling needs. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Capital Projects Fund: Sanderson Gasoline: \$565,000, Increase. Mr. Pope stated that this amendment is a \$600,000 contribution from Sanderson Farms to help offset construction cost incurred by Lenoir County and the City of Kinston for the HWY 70 gas line project. The amendment will also budget \$88,000 received from Sanderson Farms for cost incurred in running pipe lines under the rail spur at the Sanderson Feedmill location. This amendment also corrects the prior amendment, Item No. 6-C approved on 8/02/10, which listed the entire \$123,000 cost of running the pipeline to the Feedmill. Piedmont Natural Gas (PPNG) absorbed the \$35,000 difference between \$123,000 and \$88,000 because they requested extra depth under the rail spur. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Approving the Kinston-Lenoir County Parks and Recreation 2011-2017 Master Plan. Mr. Bill Ellis, Parks and Recreation Director, addressed the Board. The Board was briefed on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan at the January 3rd meeting. The plan is necessary for the Parks and Recreation Department to apply for State and Federal grant funds to assist with Parks and Recreation activities throughout the year. There were no comments made by the Board. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Pharo, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County to Apply for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant (PARTF) NTE: \$500,000 for the Woodmen Community Center's Water Park. Mr. Ellis stated that the Kinston/Lenoir County Parks and Recreation is working to complete a grant application for a \$500,000 Parks & Recreation Trust Fund Grant. The grant will be used to develop a water park at the Woodmen Community Center. The local match is \$500,000 that Lenoir County has already committed to pay for the Woodmen project. There will be no additional local money needed to match this grant. This will allow us additional state dollars to complete the water park project and maximize the county's commitment to the project. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No.8 was unanimously approved

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Authorizing the Repeater Upgrade to the Existing 800MHz and 400MHz Radio Systems for Lenoir County: \$600,000. Mr. Dail stated the existing 800 MHz radio system for Lenoir County is approximately 17 years old and is beginning to experience some coverage issues due to the aging of the system. Staff has identified areas in Lenoir County, specifically in the northeast section better known as the "Tick Bite" area that is experiencing little to no coverage by portable or mobile devices. This lack of coverage puts responders on call in great danger with limited or no radio communication with the 911 Center. The existing 400 MHz radio system, which primarily services the County Fire Departments, is beginning to experience loss of coverage in other areas of the County; specifically the Lenoir/Wayne County boundaries, Lenoir/Duplin County boundaries and Lenoir/Pitt County boundaries. This can be attributed to the age of this system. Staff has evaluated the lack of coverage in specific areas of Lenoir County that affect both the 800 MHz and 400 MHz radio systems.

In conferring with the county's radio service company, Gatley Communications and Motorola, it has been determined these issues can be resolved without an entire upgrade of the existing systems. Placing an additional 800 MHz repeater in the area would enable the department to switch to the new repeater. This will result in no loss of communications with the 911 Center or other responders in the area. There has been recent legislation involving the Special Revenue monies collected from "wire-line" and "wire-less" phone usage, which states there can be a "one-time only" use of up to 50% of the existing County Fund Balance for the purpose of purchasing these repeaters, including any and all necessary hardware, software, licensing and installation. This money would not be allocated from the General Fund. Mr. Dail stated this solution does not fix the problems, but simply patches the current system. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Appointing Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. The following reflects existing vacancies and appointments. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Pharo, the Board approved the appointment of Jamie Wallace to the Criminal Justice Partnership Program.

<u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u>	<u>APPLICANT/ CURRENT MEMBER</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
Criminal Justice Partnership Program 2 nd Appearance	Jamie Wallace	December 2012
Criminal Justice Partnership Program 1 st Appearance	Ken Jones	January 2014
Lenoir County Transit 1 st Appearance	Robin Shaw	February 2014

CURRENT VACANCIES:

- Lenoir County Health Board – (1) Veterinarian, (1) Optometrist, (1) Pharmacist, (1) Dentist**
- Lenoir County Planning Board – Districts One (1), Four (4) and Alternate**
- Grifton Planning Board – One (1) Vacancy**
- CJPP – Three (3) Vacancies**
- Kinston Board of Adjustment – Two (2) ETJ Members; (1) Primary – (1) Alternate**

Item No. 12 was a Resolution to Support the Kinston Bypass Utilizing C.F. Harvey Parkway. Mr. Russell Rhodes , Transportation Chairman stated that the Lenoir County Transportation Committee has determined that the most advantageous route for Kinston Bypass R-2553 would be the continuation of C.F. Harvey Parkway to NC 11 and then back to Hwy 70 East via NC 11 S0802). This bypass route is expected to be more economical and would expedite the Kinston bypass project to maximize benefits for the region in economic development of these areas. The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners supports the North Carolina Department of Transportation feasibility study that will include C.F. Harvey Parkway and the NC 11 Eastern Bypass of Kinston as a viable alternative. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham and a second by Mr. Davis, and unanimous approval, closed session was entered at approximately 5:38 p.m. and the following cited: Number five (5) To establish or instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price or other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other materials terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Pharo, the Board moved out of closed session at 5:55 p.m.

OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham and a second by Mr. Davis Open Session re-convened at 5:55 p.m. a.m. Mr. Graham stated the Board discussed the purchase of property; no action was taken. The Board adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lashanda A. Hall
Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By



Michael W. Jarman
County Manager