

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 20, 2015

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 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, Vice-Chairman Jackie Brown and Commissioners, Roland Best, Mac Daughety, Reuben Davis and Eric Rouse.

Members Absent: Linda Sutton

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager, Martha Martin, Finance Officer, Robert W. Griffin, County Attorney, members of the general public and news media.

Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. Ms. Brown offered the Invocation and Mr. Best led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Ms. Brown and was seconded by Mr. Rouse to excuse Ms. Sutton from the meeting. The motion passed with common consent

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Mr. Gordon Vermillion, Chairman, Lenoir County Transportation Committee, addressed the group and introduced Mr. Barry Seay, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee. Mr. Seay said he was asking the commissioners to approve changes to the bylaws as presented in their packet. He noted there were three 3 objectives: 1) Make the committee more flexible for the County Commissioners and residents; 2) Clarify duties of the county appointed designee to comply with the Public Information Act; and 3) Make the committee more flexible so the municipalities could have representation. Mr. Seay also noted seven changes in the bylaws: 1) Designating an alternate in advance in writing to the chairman and this designation would remain in effect until a letter of change was sent; 2) There will be no proxy voting; 3) Nonvoting members were added/changed, City of Kinston Planner or designee was added, and the Street Supervisor was changed to Public Service Director; 4) Subcommittee member chair must be a voting member; 5) Assigned duties to the county appointed representative overseeing documentation for the committee; 6) Eliminate terms for the chair of the committee to now serve at the will of the Board of Commissioners; and 7) No elected representative can serve as chair of the committee.

Mr. Daughety raised a question about the commissioner's length on the Board, and Mr. Griffin said he would like clarification as well. Mr. Seay said the chairman and the at-large member would serve a four year term and would continue in that capacity until a successor was named. The chairperson would be at-will as well, and this was addressed in Section 3.4-A. Upon a motion made by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Davis the bylaws were approved as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: January 05, 2015.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:

Item No. 2 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Cooperative Extension-Prevention Block Grant: \$5,121.95. Decrease. Tammy. Kelly, Cooperative Extension Director, stated, this budget amendment reflects changes in the budget of the Prevention Block Grant, which had its contract amount decreased mid-year. This was approved by Resolution at the January 5, 2015 meeting, Item #14. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 2 was unanimously approved by common consent.

Ms. Brown congratulated Ms. Kelly for recently being awarded one of the Mentor of the Year Awards from the Young Professionals group of Lenoir County. Ms. Kelly said it was an honor and a complete shock.

Item No. 3 was a Resolution to approve a purchase order to L3 Mobile Vision, Inc. in the amount of \$4,341.50. Sheriff Ingram stated, JAG funds in the amount of \$17,090.50 were available through the City of Kinston to use toward the purchase of four (4) L3 in car cameras. The total cost of the four (4) cameras is \$21,432.00 and the remaining balance of \$4,341.50 will be paid out of Federal Asset Forfeiture funds. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 3 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 4 was a Resolution to approve a purchase order to North State Acceptance in the amount of \$5,158.00. Sheriff Ingram stated, this was an impound vehicle and the finance company had removed the defendant's name from the title because of non-payment. Since the vehicle has been stored at the County's impound lot since 2013 and is a low mileage vehicle, they negotiated with the finance company to make the purchase. The vehicle would be used as an undercover vehicle and Federal Forfeiture Asset funds would be used for the purchase. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved by common consent.

Item No. 5 was a Resolution to approve the purchase of Dispatch Furniture Parts from Gately Communications in the amount of \$8,600.00. Roger Dail, EMS Director, stated, due to renovations being completed at the Emergency Communications Center and the center being upgraded from six (6) to eight (8) positions, additional furniture was needed. E911 Grant Funding would be paying for the additional furniture. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved by common consent.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution to approve grant applications to the Golden Leaf Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 and to the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in the amount of \$35,000. Amanda Conner, Economic Development Assistant, stated, they have seen a need for increasing the public's awareness regarding local industries. The purchase of a mobile manufacturing educational center, which could be used as an educational and workforce development tool at various activities throughout Lenoir, Jones and Green counties, would be a tremendous asset. It would include information within the center regarding local industries and businesses and would display those same company logos on the outside as well. By applying for these grants, they would be able to pay for a large portion of the cost. Chairman Hill asked Ms. Conner to explain in a little more detail. Ms. Conner stated, the mobile unit would resemble LCC's mobile training lab. Ms. Brown asked where this center would be placed? Ms. Conner stated, it would be used in Lenoir, Jones and Greene counties and there was a possibility of Craven as well. Mr. Rouse asked about the ongoing cost of maintaining? Ms. Conner stated, they hoped to partner with local businesses and industries to fund the balance of the purchase as well as maintain the mobile educational center. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution authorizing award of a contract for sanitary sewer, potable water and street: Improvements to Sunland Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$241,058.00. David Harris with RSM Harris Associates, who administers the CDBG Grant, introduced the project engineer, Mr. Charles Joyner of McDavid and Associates, of Farmville. Mr. Joyner addressed the group and stated his firm had bid out the sanitary sewer, the potable water and street improvements for the 2011 CDBG Catalyst Project. The bids came in a little over budget and Mr. Joyner requested the contract be awarded to Sunland Builders, Inc., contingent upon the contractor accepting the negotiated price. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Rouse, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution approving appointments of citizens to boards, commissions, etc. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 8, was unanimously approved by common consent.

CURRENT VACANCIES: Lenoir County Health Board – (1) Optometrist, (1) member, (3) Economic Development.

Item No. 9 was items from the County Manager. Mike Jarman, County Manager, stated, the Planning and Inspections report and the CDBG Quarterly Progress reports were in the folders for review. Mr. Jarman included information regarding registration for the 2015 NCACC District Meeting, with the closest location being Onslow County on April 9th . The meeting usually lasts from 5:30pm – 8:00pm with the hosting sponsor providing the meal. Everyone needs to keep that date open and we will discuss the transportation arrangements later.

Mr. Jarman reminded everyone that after the regular February 2, 2015 Board meeting, they would recess and go over to the Administration Building conference room and reconvene for a Budget work session.

Ms. Brown stated, she recently attended the Tourism Development Authority Board meeting, and the question came up about checking to see if there was a way to track the number of tourist who stayed in the hotels/motels in the County. Mr. Jarman said the reporting information should already be in place, since the fee they pay is based on the number that the hotels/motels filed. I am not sure if what is being reported is a valid number. Let me check with the Tax Office to see if there is a way to audit this.

Ms. Brown stated, she attended the African Heritage Commission meeting and they were entertained by Mr. Earl James with the Department of History in Raleigh. Mr. James told them Lenoir County was rich in history, even dating back to the time when a turpentine factory was set up on the Neuse River. Ms. Brown stated, Mr. James was interested in receiving any information which would aid in establishing more history of the County. Mr. Rouse said the burning of the County's courthouse years ago would probably hamper his efforts.

Mr. Best stated, he attended an East Carolina Workforce Development Board meeting and was informed their audit had been completed and everything looked good. Lenoir County is only one of four counties which maintains the job ready certification, which is a commitment between LCC and local industries along with STEM in the schools.

Mr. Hill stated, he wanted to make everyone aware the City of Kinston is having planning meetings in different quadrants within the City. The next meeting is Tuesday, Jan 27th at 6:00 p.m. and I encourage everyone to attend. The meetings will be very informative and involves the future of the county.

Ms. Brown asked if everyone had received a letter from Sondra Riggs from Jones County concerning the helicopters at Cherry Point? I think it's best to wait and find out more about this before moving on it. Mr. Hill agreed, I think more research is needed before taking action.

Ms. Brown attended a service at St. Augustus AME Zion church on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Lin Dawson, former NFL player addressed the group and recognized Junious Smith as one of the up and coming young men in Lenoir County.

Mr. Rouse stated, he and others are trying to get Crime Stoppers back up and running, and if you know of anyone interested in participating, please contact him. Mr. Hill stated they are seeking funding as well. In my former position at Kinston High School, we were involved in Crime Stoppers a lot, and it was a good thing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hill asked if anyone from the public wished to address the Board?

There were no comments from the audience.

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Davis a closed session was entered into at approximately 5:29 p.m. with the following cited: Number Five (5) & Number Six (6):

(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 material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract.

(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance, by or against an individual public officer or employee. The Closed Session will not include discussion of the appointment of a member of the public body, or a vacancy on the public body, and any final action on appointment, discharge or removal by the public body will be made in open session.

Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety, a second by Ms. Brown and unanimous approval, the Board moved out of closed session at approximately 6:33 p.m. The meeting re-convened in open session at approximately 6:34 p.m.

Mr. Hill stated, we are back in open session. The Board went into closed session to discuss personnel matters.

A motion was made by Mr. Davis with a second by Ms. Brown, to accept Mr. Ingram's request to have his salary set at \$89,576.31 per year. The question was called with Mr. Best, Mr. Davis, Mr. Hill, and Ms. Brown voting yes and Mr. Daughety and Mr. Rouse casting the dissenting votes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Martha Martin
Finance Officer

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager