

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 22, 2008

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 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: 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 4:00 p.m. Ms. Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Graham led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, updated the Board on Economic Development activities in Lenoir County. Mr. Pope stated he wanted to present the Board a snapshot of happenings in Lenoir County for 2007. Mr. Pope stated Lenoir County saw a great deal of growth in the industrial, corporate arenas. The county was also host to several sports tournaments that brought many people and dollars to the area. The North Carolina State Games were held in Kinston, which was a major accomplishment. Many renovations, expansions and new businesses were brought to the area in 2007; Lenoir County attracted eight new companies, while nine other companies expanded bringing over 1,000 jobs to the area and over \$44 million in capital investments. The Economic Development Department remains very busy with 29 active projects.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Item No. 2 was Items from the County Manager. Mr. Hollowell stated the 2008 Legislative Conference would be held March 1-5, 2008 in Washington, DC. Four County Commissioners will be attending this event; therefore the March 3, 2008 Board Meeting must be cancelled. The Board unanimously approved the cancellation. The County has received three new bids on surplus property owned by the County. Once approved, the 10 day upset bid process will. The Board unanimously approved the bids as presented.

Mr. Hollowell introduced a statement from Mr. Jarman regarding possible changes in county/city inspections. Administration (Kinston and Lenoir County) feel inspections currently being handled by the City (Kinston City Limits and ETJ) should be handled by Lenoir County. This would require the addition of one inspector to the County department. Inspection fees in this incorporated area have averaged between \$110,000 to \$150,000 over the last 5 years; therefore the cost of this position would be covered by revenue from inspection fees. City officials will be presenting this same proposal at the City Council meeting this evening. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Mr. Davis, the Board unanimously approved the discussion of the collaboration.

Mr. Hollowell reviewed a letter from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. In March, the North Carolina Office of Energy Medical Services (OEMS) of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services will be conducting a site visit at Pitt County Memorial Hospital to consider its application for renewal of designation as a Level I trauma center. The Board was asked if they have any concerns regarding Pitt Memorial's Level I trauma status. There was no objection from board members.

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Davis, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda:

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: January 7, 2008 Aytch/Jarman
4. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Capital Improvements: Community Development: Jarman/Hollowell
\$1,000: Increase
5. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund/Capital Improvements: \$7,500: Ellis/Hollowell
Increase

PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTIONS

Item No. 6 was a Public Hearing and Resolution Approving the Community Transportation Program Grant Application for FY 2008-2009: \$214,000: Administrative: \$136,325: Capital. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Stroud, the Public Hearing opened at 4:27 p.m. The Community Transportation Program provides assistance to coordinate existing transportation programs operating in Lenoir County as well as provides transportation options and services for the communities within this service area. These services are currently provided using demand response, subscription routes and deviated fixed routes. Upon a motion by Mr. Stroud the Public Hearing closed at 4:29 p.m. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Humphrey, the Board unanimously approved Item No. 6.

Item No. 7 was a Public Hearing and Resolution Authorizing the Chairman of the County Commissioners to Sign a Resolution for the Battlefield Parkway and Soccer Complex: Water Re-Use Project.

Item No. 8B was a Resolution Authorizing the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners to Sign a Resolution for a Parks & Recreation Trust Fund Grant (PARTF) in the Amount of \$300,000 with a Local Match of \$300,000 over a Three (3) Year Period. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Stroud, the Public Hearing opened at 4:31 p.m. Mr. Bill Ellis, Parks and Recreation Director stated the grant would be used for the construction of an 8" water line and pump station to pump water from the Kinston Water Reclamation Facility to irrigate and construct a battlefield parkway and to also irrigate a countywide soccer complex. The soccer complex will be located on Hwy 11/55 South at the old Harper Salvage property. The facility will also be irrigated by the Clean Water Management Trust Fund Water Re-use grant. The application deadline is February 1, 2008. Total project will be \$3.1 million. Mr. Rob Bizzell, Secretary of the Committee of 100 and Chairman of the Community Development Committee, addressed the Board. Mr. Bizzell stated the committee has determined battlefield restoration is an important project that will benefit the entire county. The committee encourages the grant application process and will fund up to \$200,000 to meet the requirements of the grant.

Joretta Durant – Ms. Durant stated she is opposed to the grant application for the proposed confederate battlefield. Ms. Durant would like to see the Board consider an indoor sports complex, this facility would accommodate summer camps and provide employment opportunity for the youths in the area. Regional sports events could be held at this site, rejuvenating the local economy.

Tera Archie – Ms. Archie spoke on behalf of the soccer complex, and is in full support of the project. Ms. Archie stated her children have played soccer for several years. Unfortunately, the county does not have the organization to help promote challenge soccer tournaments. Many parents who have children, who play soccer, have to pay Pitt County to play travel soccer. Tournaments take place in Pitt County, Craven County, Rocky Mount and Wilson County. Over 600 children played soccer for the Parks and Recreation Department last fall.

Mr. Lyle Holland, Chairman of the Lenoir County Battlefield Commission, stated the battlefield site is not a confederate battlefield. The Battlefield will show the First Battle of Kinston. The Battlefield Commission is simply trying to tell the story of this historic battle.

Dr. Lonnie Blizzard stated on December 13-14, 1862, 12,000 union troops under the command of General John G. Foster attacked a final line of defense of 2,000 confederate troops. The idea of the battle was not to beat them, but to delay them. The entire 100 acres should be preserved for re-enactments of such battles. This battlefield will become an asset for Kinston-Lenoir County.

Thurman Taylor – Mr. Taylor wanted to know the exact location of the proposed battlefield site. Dr. Blizzard stated the boundary is Hwy. 258, Measly Road, O.K. Street, and Neuse Haven Street, which was the Rivermont Community. There is a total of 100 acres in this location.

Myrtle Taylor-Ms. Taylor stated it has become increasingly hard for citizens to pay their bills and property taxes. She does not approve of the grant application to spend county dollars.

David Jackson – Mr. Jackson stated he is concerned with the safety of the children who will play on the future soccer site due to the salvage yard waste. Mr. Ellis stated a Phase 1 and Phase 2-mitigation study was complete before the property was purchased.

Mr. Graham stated Lenoir County is ranked 38th or 39th of the poorest counties in North Carolina. The Board has an opportunity and responsibility to move the county forward to create and jobs and a quality of life. The Board can not “shy away” from an opportunity to use state and federal dollars, that will in turn maximize local dollars to create jobs and opportunities for Lenoir County. It may not be a popular decision, but it may be the right decision to move and develop the county further.

Upon a motion by Mr. Stroud, the Public Hearing closed at 5:04 p.m. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Harper, the Board unanimously approved Item No. 7. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 8B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8A was a Resolution Authorizing the Payment for 241.65 Tons of #57 Stone Delivered to the Neuseway Nature Park for the Train Track: \$5,478.21. Mr. Ellis stated the stone has been delivered to the site in order to complete the train track at the Neuseway Nature Park. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 8A was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTIONS

Item No. 9A was a Resolution Honoring Nancy D. Keel. Ms. Brown read the resolution aloud for members of the Board and viewing public. Ms. Keel stated she has enjoyed her time working with the citizens of Lenoir County. The Board wished Ms. Keel well in her future endeavors.

Item No. 9B was a Resolution Honoring Virginia Bonar. Mr. Stroud read the resolution aloud for members of the Board and viewing public. Ms. Bonar stated she has enjoyed her time working with the citizens of Lenoir County. The Board wished Ms. Bonar well in her future endeavors.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Requesting for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System: NCDOT. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11A was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: DSS: \$54,270: Increase. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 11A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11B was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: DSS: \$104,365: Increase. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 11B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Approving Mileage Reimbursement for County Employees from \$.485 to \$.505 Per Mile Effective February 1, 2008. Mr. Hollowell stated the current rate of mileage reimbursement, \$.485 was implemented in 2005 when prices were approximately \$2.28 for a gallon of regular gas. Today, however, the price of regular gas is approximately \$3.10 per gallon, which is an increase of approximately 36% from 2007. The present rate for Lenoir County of 48.5¢ per mile was approved on October 17, 2005, which was the same increase adopted by the IRS. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13A was a Resolution Authorizing FY 2007-2008 Purchase for Two 2008 Ambulances from Select Customs Apparatus Inc., Wheelcoach: \$215,378. Mr. Roger Dail, Emergency Services Director addressed the Board. Mr. Dail stated Lenoir County Emergency Services operates twelve ambulances; two of these are 1992 and 1995 models. Each ambulance has in excess 175,000 miles. Lenoir County Emergency Services did a Request for Proposals (RFP) in 2007 to purchase the last ambulances, but had to do another RFP for the two ambulances, since we could not get 2007 chassis. Staff recommends the 2008 Chevrolet. Upon a motion by Mr. Stroud and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 13A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13B was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund/Vehicle Replacement: \$300,000: Increase. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 13B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14A was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General/Capital Improvements: Community Development: \$21,860: Decrease. Mr. Hollowell stated the amendment is a mid year budget correction to the capital improvements fund. During the budget process, revenues to be received by the county for debt repayment from the City of Kinston and Tourism were omitted in error from budget worksheets. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 14A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14B was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Insurance Fund/General Fund: Employee Insurance: \$110,000: Increase. Mr. Hollowell stated the amendment is a mid year budget amendment to reflect more accurately actual revenues and expenditures in the employee insurance fund. Transfer from the General Fund is from Fund Balance Designated for transfer from the General Fund to the Insurance Fund. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 14B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14C was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Capital Improvements: Economic Development: \$1,150,000: Increase. Mr. Hollowell stated the amendment is to budget funds from the Golden Leaf Foundation for the Dupont Saron Project. These funds are being used as part of the economic development incentive package approved by the Board on November 21, 2005. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 14C was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14D was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: School Construction: Series 2007 Bond Construction: \$2,960,473.21: Increase. Mr. Hollowell stated the amendment to transfer the budget for school bond construction projects from Fund 21 to a newly created Fund 41. This Fund was created per instructions of the Local Government Commission in order to keep the school bond construction projects completely separated from any other school capital projects and allow each bond issue to be set up in a no-close project based fund. Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 14D was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS

Item No. 15 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 2nd Appearance	Lucille Harrison (Appointment)	June 2008 M: Brown S: Davis
Lenoir County Board of Health 1st Appearance	Clifton J. Miller, Jr. Richard Carlyle Bruce L. Reese (Re-Appointment)	January 2011
Lenoir County Equalization and Review Board 1st Appearance	Meredith Craig Forrest Dawson William Whittington (Re-Appointment)	January 2011

Item No. 16 was a Resolution Appointment to the Lenoir County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC). Upon a motion by Mr. Harper and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 16 was unanimously approved.

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

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Mr. Taylor and a second by Mr. Humphrey, and unanimous approval, closed session was entered at approximately 5:32 p.m. and the following cited: Number four (4) to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Lenoir County. The Board discussed an economic development project. The Board took no action. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Harper, the Board moved out of closed session at 6:07 p.m.

OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Harper Open Session re-convened at 6:07 p.m. Mr. Taylor stated an economic development project was discussed, the Board took no action during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Lashanda Aytch
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager