

**MINUTES**  
**LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**February 1, 2010**

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 1, 2010 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 Claude Stroud and Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Reuben Davis, Chris Humphrey, Tommy Pharo and Linda Rouse Sutton.

Members absent: None

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

Chairman Graham 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**

Mr. Philip Ahlschager of Suddenlink Communications addressed the Board. Mr. Ahlschager stated Suddenlink is in the process of making a \$350 million investment in programming across the United States. More High Definition (HD) channels will be offered, Internet speeds are being increased, and "Video on Demand" is being added to the line of services. Mr. Ahlschager stated Suddenlink continues to be innovative and concerned with its customers needs. Mr. Humphrey asked about Suddenlink's balance sheet; Mr. Ahlschager stated Suddenlink's finances are very good and the balance sheet is strong. Mr. Pharo and Mr. Stroud asked how is Suddenlink addressing the problems of the un-served populations of Lenoir County. Mr. Ahlschager stated there has to be at least 20 homes per mile for services to be added to any community, but any area of concern by the Board will be investigated. The Board thanked Mr. Ahlschager for his presentation.

Mr. Roger Dail, Emergency Services Director, addressed the Board regarding the winter storm that past through the area over the weekend. Mr. Dail stated the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) along with the Lenoir County Public Schools made the decision to close school due to the bad condition of secondary road ways throughout the county. On Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 5,100 citizens lost electricity. The shelter at Lenoir Community College was opened at 4:00 p.m. manned with volunteers from the Red Cross; DSS employees were on standby. Mr. Graham was asked to sign an Emergency Declaration on Friday which put an Instant Action Plan in place to send to State and Federal governments and the local media. Mr. Dail stated everyone worked together during the storm to relay information to appropriate personnel throughout the city and county. The Board commended emergency service personnel, city officials and all other municipalities for the great work they did during the event.

**ITEMS FROM CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONERS**

Item No. 1 was Items for the Chairman and Members of the Board. Mr. Graham notified the Board of a contract that will be submitted by Mr. Jarman for employment. Mr. Graham it is precedent for a County Manager to have an employment contract. The Board was asked to review the contract and respond with any questions or concerns.

**ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER**

Item No. 2 was Items from the County Manager. Mr. Jarman showed the Board an advertisement from King’s Restaurant, showcasing Sanderson Farms chickens.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: January 4, 2010 Hall/Jarman
- 4. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: DSS: \$226.00: Increase Jones/Martin
- 5. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Finance/Sheriff’s Dept.: \$2,000: Increase Smith/Martin
- 6. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Trust and Agency Fund: Extension-Family Caregiver: \$5,000: Increase Kelly/Martin

**PROCLAMATION/BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS**

Item No. 7 was a Proclamation: Career and Technical Education Month. Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8A was a Memo regarding G.S. 105-369(a): Unpaid Real Estate Taxes.

Item No. 8B was an Order for Tax Collector to Advertise 2009 Taxes which are a Lien on Real Property. Mr. Darrell Parrish, Tax Administrator, addressed the Board. Mr. Parrish stated the outstanding 2009 taxes are \$3,139,945.20. This figure includes county, fire and late listing penalties as of January 25, 2010. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Pharo, Item No. 8A and B were unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Approving Authorizing Emergency Foam Filling of Case 621C Tires: Colony Tire: NTE: \$6,500. Mr. Hollowell stated when the Case 621C loader was moved over to the MSW Transfer station, it began experiencing flat tires. Repair of the flat tires is \$400 to \$500 each time a flat occurs. Foam filling of the tires is the best solution to prevent future flats and downtime of the loader. The Landfill Director received prices for foam filling from Colony Tire in Kinston and Black’s Tire in New Bern. Colony Tire provided the best price for the foam filling and was able to perform the task over the weekend thereby disrupting the transfer station operations as little as possible. A breakdown of the prices to foam fill the tires follows:

Colony Tire	Kinston, N.C.	\$6,414.90
Black’s Tire	New Bern, N.C.	\$7,033.20

Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Lenoir Selecting CDBG-ED Project Engineer. Mr. David Harris of RSM Harris Associates addressed the Board. Mr. Harris stated Lenoir County has authorized the filing of applications for grant funds under the NC Community Development Block Grant Program – Economic Development Category, the NC Industrial Development Fund and the NC Rural Economic Infrastructure Fund. Lenoir County anticipates receiving grant funds for the installation of natural gas pipelines to serve Sanderson Farms, Inc. The county has procured professional engineering services in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, and local requirements. M A Engineering Consultants, Inc. of Cary, NC submitted a proposal that demonstrates they are the most qualified to provide the professional engineering services necessary to complete the pipe line construction project in the best interests of the County. Their lump-sum fee of \$378,151.21 for complete engineering, design, inspections and contract administration services is reasonable and acceptable for the size and scope of the natural gas pipe line construction project. M A Engineering has a relationship with Sanderson Farms and Lenoir County as a community. Mr. Harris stated the county is very fortunate to have M A Engineering for this project. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Item No. 11 was a Resolution Appointing Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. The following reflects existing vacancies and appointments.

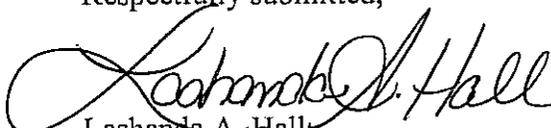
<u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u>	<u>APPLICANT/ CURRENT MEMBER</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
<b>Lenoir County Economic Development Board</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appearance	Mr. Bill Whaley Dr. Jack Harrell (Re-Appointments)	December 2012 <b>M: Brown</b> <b>S: Stroud</b>
<b>Home and Community Care Block Grant Committee</b> 1st Appearance	Mr. Chris Harper Ms. Ava G. Humphrey (Re-Appointments)	January 2013

**CURRENT VACANCIES**

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

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham the meeting recessed at 10:20 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. at the Budget Work Session at the Administration Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lashanda A. Hall  
Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By

  
Michael W. Jarman  
County Manager

Item No. 3

**MINUTES**  
**LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**BUDGET PLANNING WORK SESSION**  
Administration Building Conference Room  
February 1, 2010

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners began their scheduled retreat on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 10:30 a.m., at the Administration Building Conference Room, 101 North Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members present included: Chairman George Graham, Vice-Chairman Claude Stroud and Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Reuben Davis, Chris Humphrey, Tommy Pharo and Linda Rouse Sutton.

Members absent: None

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager, Martha Martin, Finance Officer, Roger Dail, Emergency Services Director, Joey Huff, Health Director, Chris Hill, Sheriff's Department and Lashanda Hall, Clerk to the Board.

Mr. Graham welcomed the Board members to the Budget Work Session.

Mr. Jarman stated the purpose of the work session was to obtain Board input for the upcoming FY 2010-11 budget, this input will be very important in determining funding for the new budget year. Mr. Jarman reviewed information as follows:

**Budget Philosophy** – Mr. Jarman reviewed the budget philosophy with the Board. The Board agreed to keep the goal for the Unrestricted/Unreserved General Fund Fund Balance at twenty percent (20%). In regards to employee pay, Mr. Davis stated he did not see where the county could afford to give any type of pay increases for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Pharo stated he agreed with Mr. Davis and stated he would like for all employees to be able to keep their current positions. Mr. Graham stated the Board should look into giving the employees some type of compensation for the upcoming year such as additional days of vacation. Mr. Dail stated that employees are aware of the tough economy, but additional days of vacation would do more harm in his department. Mr. Dail stated he is currently down 5 to 8 positions, with overtime at an all time high. More vacation days granted would just make the current conditions in his department worse. Management and the Board discussed job vacancies in several departments. Mr. Graham then discussed the need for a Public Information Officer (PIO) and a Human Resource Director (HR) for the county. The Board concluded there would be no funds available for a PIO unless employee's duties were combined to create the proper step. Mr. Graham stated the county needs to expand its human resources department, and a HR Director would be the proper step. The Board directed administration to include some type of compensation for employee's in the upcoming fiscal year as long as it could be done within the current budget parameters and numbers.

**Financial Performance Summary (as of 12/31/09)** – Mr. Jarman reviewed the revenues and expenditures with the Board. The County is in line with budgeted numbers. Sales tax for the county is still very low; jail expenditures are high and increasing

**Current Year Revenues vs. Expenditures as of January 31, 2010**

Revenues Forecast Projected Over-run -\$106,950  
Expenditures Forecast Projected Over-Run - \$368,000  
Total Projected Under-Run to "The Bad" - -\$261,050  
Projected Fund Balance Appropriated - \$871,374

**General Fund Fund Balance Projection for the Remainder of FY 09-10**

At current \$63,376,257 Amended General Fund Budget (1/31/10); the County has 7.8 weeks or working capital.

Projection: The county will increase the current Appropriated Fund Balance of \$610,324 (as of 1/31/10) by \$261,050 and finish FY 09-10 using \$871,374 of Fund Balance.

**School Bond Payments with Lottery** – Mr. Jarman reviewed the bond payments for schools. Mr. Jarman reminded the Board of the upcoming shortage in FY 12-13 for school bond payments.

**Jail Debt Service** – Mr. Jarman stated the estimated debt of the jail is \$17.5 million at 5% interest. Total debt service paid for FY 10-11 will be \$437,500. Mr. Jarman reminded the Board of the jail's capacity and the on-going overcrowding issue. Mr. Jarman asked the Board if they were still interested in constructing a jail; by common consent the Board stated their interest in jail construction.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham and a second by Mr. Stroud, the Board concluded the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

  
Lashanda Aytch  
Clerk to the Board

  
Michael W. Jarman  
County Manager