

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 03, 2014

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 03, 2014, 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, Eric Rouse and Linda Rouse-Sutton.

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

Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at approximately 9 a.m. Ms. Brown offered the Invocation and Mr. Best led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Mr. Brantley Uzzell, ABC Director addressed the group and gave an update on the ABC Board's bid to purchase property at 2918 N. Herritage Street, Kinston. Mr. Uzzell said this move to purchase the property would cost the ABC Board up front, but he said he hoped it would bring in more revenue. He said they currently rent the property at Phillips Road, and at times, there is not enough room to park. Mr. Uzzell then asked if the commissioners had any questions.

Ms. Sutton said she had heard a lot of positive comments since the sign went up. Mr. Uzzell said by statute, the ABC Board has to have the sign up with their intentions to purchase the property, for at least 30 days. He said they will wait until March 19th, and then go before the State ABC Board to ask for final approval.

Ms. Brown said she hoped this move would alleviate the congestion that frequently occurs at the Phillips Road property. Mr. Uzzell then passed around a diagram of how the inside of the new facility would be arranged. He said in the new location there would be about 1,250 square feet of shelf space, which he said was close to the size of the facility across from the Courthouse. Mr. Uzzell also said they currently sell around \$900,000 at the Phillips Road facility, and he hopes this will increase to \$1 million to \$1.5 million in the next three to five years. He also said he hopes the new location would pick up traffic from Airport Road, as well as folks leaving Kinston and heading to Greene or Pitt County from that side of town.

Ms. Sutton asked Mr. Uzzell what was the size of the Phillips Road facility? Mr. Uzzell said it has about 1,800 square feet, and the new store will have 5,000 square feet, with about 3,000 square feet being heated space. He said with the additional room, they will be able to carry more higher end products.

Mr. Best asked how many were currently employed at Phillips Road, and Mr. Uzzell answered one full-time and one part-time employee, with the hours of 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Mr. Uzzell went on to say the new facility would have hours from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and would open 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday. He said they would probably align the hours of the facility across the street from the Courthouse to be the same as the new location. Mr. Uzzell said with the extended hours, they may have to hire two more part-time employees, but he thought the additional revenue would more than cover those employees.

Chairman Hill thanked Mr. Uzzell for coming before the Board to give them an update.

CONSENT AGENDA :

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting, February 17, 2014.
2. Resolution Approving Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein

Mr. Jarman stated the minutes should be amended to include Mr. Reuben Davis as being present at the last meeting.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS :

Item No. 3 was a Resolution Honoring Ms. Barbara M. Hammonds. Ms. Brown read the resolution honoring Ms. Barbara M. Hammonds and said she was going to miss seeing Barbara at the Board of Elections office, and asked if she had anything she wanted to share. Ms. Hammonds said it had been a pleasure to work at The Board of Elections and she had enjoyed every minute of it, and had always tried to help the candidates, who came in to file, with their paperwork. Mr. Hill said he wanted to thank her as well for all of her help. Ms. Hammonds was thanked individually by each commissioner. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 3 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 4 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Solid Waste Fund: Finance/Landfill: \$3,935: Increase. Ms. Martin stated this Budget Ordinance Amendment is to appropriate Electronics Management Funds received on February 20, 2014, for the year 2014. This is a new grant

program to help offset the costs of electronics recycling. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 5 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Finance/Emergency Services: \$4,082: Increase. Ms. Martin stated this Budget Ordinance Amendment is to budget insurance proceeds received from Auto-Owners Insurance Company on 02/13/14, in the amount of \$4,081.16. This is to cover cost of repairs to a 2010 Ford Econoline E-350 Ambulance struck by a citizen on 12/12/13. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution Authorizing the Extension of Color Copier/Printer Lease for 25 months: CopyPro: \$8,875. Mr. Jarman said Item No. 6 was being pulled from today's agenda, and may be in the agenda for the next meeting.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Approving Presentation of Badge and Service Weapon to Retiring Sergeant Nelson Ray Blizzard. Ms. Sutton said it was honor to read the resolution honoring Mr. Blizzard. Once she had read the resolution, she then presented him with his badge and Glock .45 caliber service weapon. Ms. Sutton said she wanted to thank Mr. Blizzard for his years of service, as well as his wife and family. She said sometimes we take for granted the sacrifice made by families of our deputies. Ms. Sutton also said Mr. Blizzard loves his community and the people of Lenoir County – she then asked if he had anything he wanted to say. Mr. Blizzard said he wanted to thank his wife, Lynne, and his son and daughter. He said he had been blessed to have a family which supported him, and it had always been great to come to work, where it was fun, as well as work. Ms. Brown said she had missed him and would continue to miss his presence at the skating rink. Sheriff Hill said Mr. Blizzard had been with the department for almost thirty-four years, and he actually met Mr. Blizzard through an Explorer post with the Sheriff's Department. He said he and a lot of the other officers had gone through the Explorer program taught by Mr. Blizzard, and they all owed him a lot for the career path they had chosen. Sheriff Hill then named several of the positions held by Mr. Blizzard and said he would truly be missed. Ms. Sutton mentioned Mr. Blizzard's parents, and how proud they were of him. Mr. Blizzard was then congratulated by each of the commissioners. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Canine Car Insert and Heat Systems for Vehicles: Ray Allen Manufacturing: \$7,328.64. Sheriff Hill stated the Board is requested to authorize him to execute a purchase order with Ray Allen Manufacturing for the purchase of one (1) canine car kennel for a 2014 Ford SUV, and five (5) heat systems with fans for canine vehicles, at a total cost of \$7, 328.64. He said these units will alert an officer who is away from the vehicle if a problem arises, which causes the temperature within the canine vehicle to reach a certain level. Sheriff Hill said Federal Forfeiture Asset funds will be used to purchase this equipment. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was A Resolution Approving the Addition of One (1) Part-Time Processing Clerk in the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Hill stated the Board is requested to authorize the creation of one part-time processing clerk position for the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office Records Division. He said from 2001 until 2013, the number of Carry Concealed Weapon Permits has increased from 98 per year to 827 per year. Sheriff Hill then explained that \$35 of each new permit and each renewal permit are to go to the Sheriff's Department, to be used to offset the cost of administering the program, or some other law enforcement purpose. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Various Special Response Team Equipment: Lawmens, Inc.: \$52,787.06. Sheriff Hill stated the Board is requested to authorize him to execute a purchase order with Lawmen's Inc., for the purchase of various Special Response Team equipment needed to replace, update or assist with emergency operations at a total cost of \$52,787.06. Sheriff Hill said this new equipment would replace equipment that was worn out, as well as purchasing new specialty weapons. He said this would be paid out of Federal Forfeiture Asset funds, not tax dollars. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Resolution Approving a Sixty (60) Month Lease Agreement for an 826H Landfill Caterpillar Compactor DCA3: Gregory Poole (Washington, NC): \$10,601.86 per Month: Mr. Miller stated the commissioners approved the County's version of the resolution on February 3, 2014, Item #10, but Caterpillar Financial Services is requiring their resolution be approved and signed. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Declaring Property as Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Property by Auction. Mr. Parrish stated the Board is requested to declare tax foreclosed property as surplus and authorize the sale of the surplus property, through the negotiated offer and upset bid process, in accordance with procedures set forth in NC General Statute 160A-269. He further stated these foreclosed properties could be added back to the County's tax rolls once they had been sold. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution of the County Commissioners of Lenoir County Authorizing the Filing of an Application to Borrow Trust Funds from North Carolina's Eastern Region. Mr. Jarman addressed the group and said there has been a lot of talk recently about the Eastern Region, but after June 30, 2014, the Eastern Region will no longer exist. He said it will then become the Eastern Alliance, and will be a public/private partnership. Mr. Jarman said there was about \$7 million the State had been holding, which was sent back to the Eastern Region. He said there was \$576,923.08, which could be borrowed by each of the ER counties, with a one-time origination fee of 1%, and no interest. There will be a 59 month pay-back period. Mr. Jarman

said if the funds were borrowed, they would have to be used for economic development projects, and said the County could use these funds as part of their funding for the \$750,000.00 committed to the Smithfield sewer expansion project. He said this would stretch the County's payments over five years and would keep the entire amount from coming out of General Fund Fund Balance at one time. Mr. Jarman said the County has been watching the process closely, and is waiting to receive written confirmation that the State is accepting whatever agreements are put in place prior to June 30th. Mr. Rouse asked if we could just make payments on the sewer project, and Mr. Jarman answered no. Mr. Jarman said as part of the process for receiving grants to assist with the sewer expansion, the County and City must expend their funds first. Chairman Hill said at the last two monthly meetings of the Eastern Region, other counties have applied for their loans, and if we didn't, we would be the only County not doing so. He said the County could opt to designate the loan to another County if they so desired, but other counties are borrowing the funds and are using them for many varied projects. Chairman Hill also said we could hold this resolution until the next meeting, but the County would have to move on this now or at the next meeting in order to receive the funds prior to June 30th. Chairman Hill said another good thing about this loan was, due to the payback period, this did not have to have prior approval from the LGC. Mr. Jarman said if for some reason the State did not accept what the Eastern Region was doing, we would not be out anything, since we are spending our funds that have already been committed and budgeted. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS:

Item No. 14 was a Resolution Approving 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> |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| US 70 Corridor Commission | John Craft Mac Daughtey Brian Lucas Mark Pope 1st Appearance | December 2014 |
| Lenoir Memorial Hospital Board of Directors | Clifton Harrison (Primary) Holton Harrison (Alternate) 1st Appearance | March 2018 |

Chairman Hill said this is the first appearance, so no action will be taken at this time. He then read vacancies from other Boards.

ITEMS FROM CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONERS:

Chairman Hill said he would like to recognize Senator Tony Moore who was in the audience, and thanked him for being present today.

Ms. Brown said she was invited to serve on the Advocacy Board of the Community Health Center and was present at a program where Farm Bureau featured a presentation regarding diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity. She said Farm Bureau will sponsor a trailer in September at Grainger Stadium, where people can go and be screened for better health care. She said whenever this has been completed, a grant of \$2,500 will go to the Community Health center. Ms. Brown said each of the commissioners has been asked to write a letter requesting additional grant funds for the Community Health Center to support mental health and behavioral health.

Ms. Sutton said the Lenoir County Chapter of the Red Cross will be holding a benefit BBQ dinner on Friday, March 7th and if anyone would like to receive plates, to contact Bill Taylor at 252-521-1000. She said this benefits the Red Cross, which in turn helps the entire community and asked everyone to please purchase plates.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER:

1. Education Summit: Monday, March 17, 2014, 5:30 pm: Lenoir County Public School's Boardroom.
2. NCACC: February 25, 2014: Email: Economic Development Task Force Symposium
NCACC Legislative Update: District Meetings.
3. Sales Tax: FY 2013-14

Mr. Jarman reminded everyone of the Education Summit with the Lenoir County Public Schools and Lenoir Community College, which will take place after the next Commissioners' meeting, Monday, March 17th at 5:30 p.m. He said this would be a time when those two entities would share their goals with the Commissioners.

Mr. Jarman said there was information in their packets regarding an Economic Development Task Force Listening Tour and Symposium, which will be held on Tuesday, March 11th in Lenoir County. He said he had been informed this would be held from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Chef and Farmer, but will try to find out for sure and let everyone know. Mr. Jarman said he understood Ben Knight of the Chef and Farmer will be discussing things he has done with public/private partnerships. He said the group will be asked to share their success stories as well as

any concerns they may have.

Mr. Jarman then reminded the Commissioners of the NCACC District Meeting, which will be held on April 10th in Onslow County. He asked everyone who planned to attend to please let him know, so he could coordinate with the NCACC to let them know. Mr. Jarman also reminded everyone about the County Assembly Day, which will be on Wednesday, May 28th. He said this would be a good time to address any questions or concerns with our legislators. Mr. Jarman then shared a short video which the NCACC asked to be played at the Commissioners' meeting. The gist of the video was asking lawmakers to reinstate the lottery funds to the counties for school construction. Mr. Jarman commented on the video and said the County was originally slated to receive approximately \$1.4 million dollars from the lottery to help with debt service for new school construction. However, with the changes made by the General Assembly, the County now receives approximately \$600,000.00 per year. Mr. Jarman said last year's tax increase could have been two cents less, if the funding formula had not been changed.

Mr. Jarman then asked Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, to come up and explain to everyone the breakdown of the costs for the County, the City and the C-100 for the Smithfield Way Extension Project. Mr. Pope said the County currently has \$4,735.54 in service costs it has paid for appraisal, survey, settlement fee, etc. He said depending on which value you place on the land that was swapped with the State, you were looking at either \$12,000 per acre, \$18,000 per acre or \$25,000 per acre, for a value of \$54,360, \$81,400 or \$133,250. Mr. Pope said the least the County has invested is \$59,095.54 and the most it has invested is equivalent to \$137,985.54. He said the C-100 had spent \$22,500 and the City had spent \$22,500. Mr. Pope also said the City had bid out the demolition of the building, and that cost was only \$1,440, so the worst case scenario for the City would be \$24,500.

CLOSED SESSION:

Ms. Brown made a motion to go into closed session at 10:00 a.m. to discuss Item No. 4, "To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Lenoir County". Ms. Sutton seconded the motion, and by common consent the Commissioners went into closed session.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, the Commissioners by common consent came out of closed session at 10:06 a.m.

OPEN SESSION:

Chairman Hill said the Commissioners went into closed session to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Lenoir County, but no action was taken. He asked if there was any other item of business.

Ms. Sutton suggested whenever the Commissioners meet with the schools and the college in two weeks, to add the lottery item to the agenda. Ms. Brown said she is a member of the Education Steering Committee, which is through the NCACC, and at last month's meeting they discussed having the legislators present at the district meetings. She said they are asking the legislators to pressure the General Assembly to reinstate the lottery funds as originally intended.

With no further discussion Mr. Hill adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha H. Martin

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Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By,

Michael W. Jarman

Michael W. Jarman

County Manager