

## **MINUTES**

### **LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**March 4, 2013**

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 4, 2013 in the Board of Commissioners Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members Present: Chairman Reuben Davis, Vice-Chairman Jackie Brown, and Commissioners, Mac Daughety, Linda Rouse-Sutton, Craig Hill, Roland Best and Eric Rouse.

Members Absent: None

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

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Jackie Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Davis led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Ms. Brown read the Resolution Honoring Marguerite G. Whitfield to the Board. Ms. Brown stated the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners wishes to honor the life and service of Marguerite G. Whitfield who passed away on Sunday, January 13, 2013. Ms. Whitfield graduated from Deep Run High School (now South Lenoir) and attended Barton College (formerly known as Atlantic Christian College) upon the encouragement and support of her mentors (Randy and Cora Lee Munn), where she received a business certificate. She served as a member of the Lenoir County Board of County Commissioners for 12 years and also served in top leadership positions at the local, State, and national level of the North Carolina Extension Homemakers. She was a Guardian Ad Litem volunteer, a member of the Kinston Chamber of Commerce, an active member of the Episcopal Church at Holy Innocents Church (at the Diocesan level), a member of the Lenoir County Mental Health Board and served on the Lenoir County Arts Council's Board. She was a graduate of the Leadership North Carolina Program, and was a member of the N. C. Women's Leadership Forum. She was appointed by Governor James B. Hunt to the North Carolina Social Services Commission. She received the Legacy Award from the Boys & Girls Club of Lenoir County. The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners recognizes Marguerite G. Whitfield for her dedicated services she so freely gave to the citizens of Lenoir County. Ms. Brown presented the resolution to Marguerite Whitfield's children, Melrose Whitfield Fisher and Isaac Ward Whitfield Sr. Ms. Fisher expressed her gratitude to the Board for honoring her mother. Ms. Sutton expressed her appreciation and stated if it were not for Ms. Whitfield and her guidance, she would not be where she is now.

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution Honoring Marguerite G. Whitfield. The Board recessed at 9:15 a.m. to speak with Marguerite Whitfield's family. The Board meeting reconvened at 9:23 a.m.

Mr. Johnny Metcalfe, P.E., NCDOT District Engineer, discussed the Hwy 70 Update with the Board. Mr. Metcalfe stated the first phase is to move traffic onto the west bound lane (outside lane). At that time, traffic will shift in another direction headed towards Hwy 70 West. There will be a traffic light placed near Affordable Care, which will allow traffic to get back and forth to and from the Industrial Parks as well as other businesses. Highway 70 East will be open to traffic during the first phase. Mr. William C. Kincannon, P.E., NCDOT Resident Engineer, stated all west bound traffic will be placed on the inside east bound lane, in an effort to perform the tie ends on both sides of the traffic for the new construction that will take place on Highway 70. Mr. Kincannon stated initially all the traffic will flow on the eastbound lane for at least 8-10 days. There will be signs and arrows that will show the drivers which way to go. Mr. Metcalfe stated the traffic may be congested during this process. Mr. Metcalfe stated the second phase will move traffic on to the east bound lane (inside lane). Mr. Metcalfe stated the third phase will allow construction to take place on the east bound lane. Mr. Metcalfe cautioned everyone to take heed of the barrels and cones when driving. Once the east bound lane is complete, they will begin construction on the west bound lane as well. Mr. Daughety inquired how long will the process take? Mr. Kincannon stated the new construction will be paved on March 16, 2013, which will take about a week or two weeks to complete. Once the paving is complete, on April 1, 2013, the first phase will take place which will shift traffic onto the west bound lane. Each phase is scheduled to take at least 10 days to complete, if the weather permits. There are four phases and each phase may take up to two weeks. Mr. Daughety inquired if the construction will be complete by Memorial Day? Mr. Kincannon stated the construction is scheduled to be complete by Memorial Day. Mr. Metcalfe stated on April 6, 2006, he gave a Moving Goods and People Power Point presentation to the Global Transpark Foundation. Mr. Metcalfe stated Division 2 Projects (Havelock Bypass, NC Widening in Lenoir County, Kinston Bypass, Harvey Parkway, Gallant's Channel, and Rouse Road Extension) were presented to the Global Transpark Foundation. Mr. Metcalfe stated the NC Highway 11 Widening in Lenoir County and Rouse Road Extension is complete. The Harvey Parkway Project is almost complete. The Havelock Bypass and Kinston Bypass are underway. Mr. Metcalfe stated Division 3 Projects (NC Pink Hill Bypass in Duplin County) was presented to the foundation as well. Mr. Metcalfe stated the projects that were presented to the foundation are underway and some of them are complete. Mr. Griffin inquired will there be signs during the transition directing traffic to local businesses? Mr. Kincannon stated there will be signs directing traffic to local businesses.

Susan Moore, Department of Social Services Director, discussed the Lenoir County Department of Services Annual Report for FY: 2011-2012 with the Board. Ms. Moore stated they are one of the largest agencies in Lenoir County Government. Ms. Moore stated Lenoir County Department of Social Services is a county operated, state supervised, public, non-profit service delivery organization funded by federal, state, and county revenues. The agency's purpose is to provide economic assistance, child support enforcement, and professional social work services to individuals and families living in Lenoir County, and to deliver a large number of specialized and complex programs designed to assist the county in coping with a variety of social and economic conditions.

Ms. Moore stated only 4% of their expenditures are funded by the County. Ms. Moore stated their total expenditures for the year are \$140,415,524. Only a portion of the expenditures and revenue for Social Services flow to and through the Lenoir County Finance Office and are, therefore included in the Local Budget Ordinance. The Department of Social Services' expenditures are \$13,813,354 and the revenues are \$9,714,636. The total cost of expenditures the County contributes is \$4,098,718. Ms. Moore stated the Food and Nutrition Services (formerly Food Stamps) program is designed to promote the general welfare and to safeguard the health and well-being of Lenoir County citizens by raising the level of nutrition among low income households. The Lenoir County Food and Nutrition Services unit achieved this by; taking 7,096 applications for assistance, providing benefits to 6,941 Lenoir County households and 14,637 Lenoir County citizens and issuing \$22,468,992 in benefits to the citizens of Lenoir County. Ms. Moore stated the agency investigated suspected "Welfare Fraud" and ensured collection of overpayments of grants which was a total of \$116,949.10. Ms. Moore stated the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) is a Federally-funded program that provides assistance to low income households that are in a heating or cooling related emergency. The goal of the CIP program is to help families stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. By doing so, this reduces the risk of health and safety problems such as illness, fire or eviction. Ms. Moore stated the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a Federally-funded program that provides for a one-time cash payment to vendors to help eligible families pay their heating bills. Energy Assistance is important to all that receive it, but more so if someone in your home is elderly, disabled or a young child under 6 years of age. These persons are especially at risk for life threatening illnesses or death if their home is too cold in the winter or too hot in the summer. Medicaid is a health insurance program for low income individuals and families who cannot afford healthcare costs. Ms. Moore stated Medicaid serves low income parents, children, seniors, and people with disabilities. In Fiscal Year 2011-2012, \$99,646,631.05 in medical benefits was issued on behalf of 15,393 Lenoir County citizens. Ms. Moore stated State/County Special Assistance for Adults (SA) provides a cash supplement to help low income individuals residing in adult care homes (such as rest homes) pay for their care. In Fiscal Year 2011-2012, \$1,667,621.18 in cash supplements was issued which assisted 258 citizens. Ms. Moore stated the purchase of Transportation Services enables individuals to have access to various medical and health related resources. Transportation Services are provided to the elderly, disabled, children, and pregnant women through Medicaid. In Fiscal Year 2011-2012, \$578,073.36 in Medicaid Transportation payments were issued to Lenoir County Businesses. Ms. Moore stated the Work First Family Program is devised to aid recipients of Work First Family Assistance in becoming self-sufficient and not dependent on individuals to achieve personal responsibility through acquiring permanent employment. Ms. Moore stated the Child Daycare Services Program provides subsidized services to employed parents, parents involved in educational activities, children in the custody of the Lenoir County Department of Social Services and children with special needs. Ms. Moore stated General Assistance is a program funded by 100% of County funds for the purpose of helping with prescription medication and in some instances with emergency food and shelter needs. Ms. Moore stated Child Support Service establishes and enforces support obligations for parents who are absent from the home. Ms. Moore stated Child Protective Services includes assessing reports of neglected and/or abused children under the age of 18, treatment services designed to remove conditions which put the children at risk, and services to facilitate the removal of children in harmful situations.

Ms. Moore stated they also provide Adult Protective Services which include investigations of alleged abuse, neglect and exploitation of individuals 18 years of age or older. They provide Adult Day Care, Adult Care Home Case Management, In Home Services, and Guardianship Services as well. Ms. Moore stated the Lenoir County Department of Social Services programs have funneled over \$202 million into the local economy. Their programs help support jobs and economic activity in Lenoir County. Money used for economic assistance programs have a “multiplier effect” which occurs because the benefit dollars paid to service providers are then re-spent as wages, or salaries to their employees, rent for their buildings, utility payments, vehicle purchases and other business or personal expenses here in Lenoir County. Many of the employees of the service providers then re-spend the money for their own household or personal expenses. Economic assistance dollars cycle throughout the economy, thereby improving everyone’s financial status.

Ms. Brown read the Social Work Month 2013 Proclamation to the Board. Ms. Brown stated the Social Work profession creates pathways to full participation in society; the primary mission of Social Work is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable. For over 100 years Social Workers have helped America’s leaders weave the nation’s social safety net. Everyday Social Workers address the emotional, psychological, economic, and/or physical needs of millions of people. Social Workers help clients use their strengths, resilience, and self-advocacy to navigate life challenges. Social Workers help people function better in their environments, improve their relationships with others, and solve personal and family problems through a wide range of psychosocial services. Social Workers assist individuals and families in every stage of life, from all communities. Social Workers advocate for fairness and access to resources that benefit the most people. Social Work is currently one of the fastest growing professions in the United States. Social Workers are employed in many different organizations and industries, including private and public agencies, hospices and hospitals, schools and universities, businesses and foundations, military branches and veterans’ centers, as well as national and local public elected offices. Social Workers celebrate the courage, strength, and determination of the human spirit, and work to empower others to hope, dream and believe in their own potential. Ms. Brown stated in recognition that our nation would be less successful without the contributions of America's 650,000 social workers. Ms. Brown stated the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners, proclaim the month of March 2013 as Professional Social Work Month and call upon all citizens to join with the National Association of Social Workers and Lenoir County Department of Social Services in celebration and support of the Social Work profession. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Social Work Month 2013 Proclamation was unanimously approved.

### **ITEMS FROM THE CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONERS**

Mr. Daughety presented the Quad East Timeline to the Board. Mr. Daughety stated he met with Mayor Thomas of Greenville, N.C., and Neil Lassiter, North Carolina Department of Transportation Division Engineer to discuss obtaining an interstate route for Eastern North Carolina which includes; Highway 264, Highway 70 and a potential interstate loop.

The discussion evolved into potentially creating a regional collaboration between Wilson, Goldsboro, Kinston, Greenville and their respective counties. The dialogue about the interstate loop led to possibly forming a regional partnership which could provide a dynamic economic development resource. Mr. Daughety stated Mayor Thomas coined the regional collaboration as Quad East. It was agreed that the interstate loop could accommodate the surrounding counties greatly with transportation and economic development.

Mr. Best stated he attended with the East Carolina Workforce Development Board Meeting in New Bern, North Carolina. Mr. Best stated Lenoir County was recognized for employing over 10,000 people.

### **ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER**

Mr. Jarman reminded the Board about the Kinston Elks Lodge Award Dinner that will be held on March 27, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Jarman stated the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners will have a district meeting on April 24, 2013 in Greenville, North Carolina.

Mr. Jarman stated the County Commissioners and former Commissioners have been invited to attend a tour of the Lenoir County Jail on March 8, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Jarman stated there will be a public open house for the Lenoir County Jail on March 9, 2013 from 9:00a.m-4:00p.m.. The public is welcome to take a tour of the new jail facility. There will be a public open house for the Lenoir County Jail on March 10, 2013 from 1:00 p.m-5:00 p.m.

Mr. Jarman reminded the Board about the joint meeting with Kinston City Council which will be held on March 7, 2013 in the Tax Administration Building at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Jarman stated the next budget meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. prior to the regular 4:00 pm Commissioners meeting on March 18, 2013 at the Tax Administration Building.

### **CONSENT AGENDA: 10Min.**

### **ACTION**

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| 3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: -February 18, 2013                              | Roberts/Jarman |
| 4. Resolution Approving the Releases and Refunds   | Parrish        |
| 5. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Finance/Sheriff's Department: \$251: Increase                   | Martin         |
| 6. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: (Adult Health-BCCCP)<br>Increase: \$2,199 | Huff           |

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

## **BUDGET ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Honoring Wayne Brock. Ms. Sutton read the Resolution Honoring Wayne Brock to the Board. Mr. Brock is recognized for his outstanding leadership and dedication to the Boys Scouts of America. He began his professional scouting career in 1972 as a District Executive in New Bern, North Carolina, and then served on the staff in Knoxville, Tennessee. He also served as Scout Executive in Athens, Georgia; Scout Executive in Orlando, Florida; Regional Director of the Southern Region; and as Assistant Chief Scout Executive. He is a recipient of the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award, and received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from East Carolina University. Mr. Brock serves as the 12<sup>th</sup> Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, headquartered in Irving, Texas. His task is to work alongside his volunteer counterpart the National President to lead 1,100 National Council employees, 5,800 local council employees, and almost 1.2 million adult volunteers who serve more than 2.6 million youth across the nation. The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners recognizes Wayne Brock for his dedicated services he so freely gives to the Boys Scouts of America this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2013. Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No.7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution Approving Lenoir County Voluntary Agricultural District Program. Ms. Eve Honeycutt, Livestock Agent, stated Agriculture is an important component of the fabric of life in Lenoir County. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote agricultural values and the general welfare of the county and more specifically, increase identity and pride in the agricultural community and its way of life; encourage the economic and financial health of agriculture; and increase protection from non-farm development and other negative impacts on properly managed farms. Recommendation Two (2) of the approved Lenoir County Voluntary Farm and Forest Preservation Plan is to Develop and Adopt a Voluntary Agricultural District Program. Eighty-eight percent of the Lenoir County farmers interviewed were unaware of such an ordinance, and 100 % indicated that they would enroll in the program if it were available. Mr. Griffin expressed thanks to Tammy Kelly, Eve Honeycutt, Stephen Woodson, and Albert Robinson for the detailed information that was provided regarding the Voluntary Agriculture District Program. The way the ordinance is structured, the farmer may apply to be a part of the Voluntary Agriculture District Program. If the application is accepted, the farmer will notify the community with signage that he or she is a part of the Voluntary Agriculture District Program. Tax Administration will be notified and they will notify the public as well. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Approving Purchase Order Execution for Actuarial Valuation of Health Care Plan of Lenoir County: Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC: \$5,500. Ms. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated in 2004 the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statements 43 and 45 regarding the accounting and reporting requirements for "Other Post-Employment Benefits" (OPEB). These two statements created issues that management must address beyond the basics of accounting and reporting. Statement 43 established accounting and reporting standards for post-employment benefit plans established as "irrevocable trusts". Statement 45 established the accounting and reporting requirements for an employer's expenses and liabilities related to their post-employment benefit plan regardless of how it is funded.

Statement 45 requires the calculation of actuarial liabilities for benefits related to past service and assess to what extent those benefits have been funded. It will provide information for the assessment of future cash needs to fund OPEB Plans. Other post-employment benefits are defined as those benefits paid at retirement, that are not offered through a pension plan and post-employment healthcare regardless of how long it is provided. OPEB can include such items as life insurance, disability insurance, and long-term care insurance for retirees and their dependents. Post-employment healthcare; however, is always classified as a post-employment benefit regardless of whether or not it is included in a pension plan. Statement 45 affects every local government unit that offers post-employment benefits. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Board of Elections: \$7,828: Increase. Ms. Dana King, Board of Elections Director, stated the budget amendment was to appropriate funds received by check on February 15, 2013 by the board of Elections from the Department of Administration in the amount of \$7,828.01. Ms. King stated these funds are for the 2013 HAVA (Help America vote Act) Grant which is paid to assist the County with the One-Stop Voting Sites. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Solid Waste Fund: Finance/Landfill: \$8,364: Increase. Ms. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated the budget amendment was to appropriate insurance proceeds received on February 15, 2013 in the amount of \$8,363.75 from Argonaut Great Central Insurance Company. This is for damages done to a truck from the landfill that struck a light pole in the Wal-Mart parking lot on December 27, 2012. These funds will be used to assist in paying for the repairs to the 2007 Sterling Truck. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health (Immunization Program State) Decrease (\$9,408). Mr. Joey Huff, Health Department Director, stated the budget amendment was to appropriate State funding which was reduced from the Immunization branch in an effort to comply with the limitations from the federal grantor. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Non-Departmental: \$51,588: Increase. Ms. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated the budget amendment was to budget a refund from our insurance carrier (W.A. Moore) received on February 13, 2013 in the amount of \$51,588. Ms. Martin stated whenever the regular property renewal was received; the cost was significantly higher than last year. W.A Moore advised County Administration to allow them to shop other carriers for a lesser cost, and the new carrier did in fact give a better price on the existing buildings and the new jail. Mr. Rouse inquired if the amount of par has changed? Ms. Martin state the amount was a lot higher, than before. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14 was a Resolution Authorizing the Four (4) year Lease of 162 Desktop Computers and 3 year lease of 31 tablets from Dell Computer Corp, Inc. Not to Exceed \$67,200 per year. Mr. Joey Bryan, MIS Director, stated on April 21, 2008 the Lenoir County Commissioners approved a four year Technology Refresh Program that allowed Lenoir County to lease its desktop units. It has been very effective in keeping desktop pc's operating in an ever-changing changing environment that is Information Technology (IT). This also allows us to have all of the operating costs covered under warranty for the entire four years. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Item No. 15 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. Mr. Hill recommended that Barry Seay be added as a first appearance on the Boards and Commissions list. Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Mr. Sutton, with unanimous approval the Board added Barry Seay as a first appearance on the Boards and Commissions list. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Sutton, Item No. 15 was unanimously approved.

<b><u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u></b>	<b><u>APPLICANT/CURRENT MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>TERM EXPIRATION</u></b>
Lenoir County Transportation Committee (One Vacancy)	Leigh McNairy 1 <sup>st</sup> Appearance  Michelle A. Nix 1 <sup>st</sup> Appearance  Barry Seay 1 <sup>st</sup> Appearance	February 2016

**CLOSED SESSION**

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, and unanimous approval, closed session was entered at approximately 10:55 a.m. and the following cited: Number six (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 appointment of a member of the 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. Hill and a second by Ms. Sutton, the Board moved out of closed session at approximately 11:35 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

Mr. Davis stated during closed session the Board discussed a personnel matter.

Mr. Davis adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Clevette F. Roberts  
Interim Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By,

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Michael W. Jarman  
County Manager