

## MINUTES

### LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 17, 2014

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 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, Reuben Davis, Eric Rouse and Linda Rouse-Sutton.

Members absent: Mac Daughety

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Martha Martin, Finance Officer, Vickie F. King, Clerk to the Board, Robert Griffin, County Attorney, members of the general public and news media.

Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at approximately 4 p.m. Ms. Brown offered the Invocation and Mr. Rouse led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown, the Board unanimously approved to excuse Commissioner Daughety.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:** None scheduled

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: March 3, 2014

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

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:**

Item No. 2 was a Resolution Honoring Audrey West. Ms. Brown read the resolution for the Board and members of the viewing public honoring Audrey West. Ms. Brown also reminded the Board that Ms. West served as Clerk to the Board under County Manager, John Bauer. Ms. West thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve Lenoir County. Ms. West stated she hopes her years of service have made a difference in Lenoir County Government. Ms. West thanked all of the Commissioners for the hard work they do for the citizens of Lenoir County. Mr. Hill congratulated Ms. West and Ms. West was thanked by each of the commissioners and County Manager for her years of service to Lenoir County. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 2 was unanimously approved.

Item No 3. was a Proclamation: Social Work Month 2014, “All People Matter”. Ms. Brown read the proclamation for members of the Board and the viewing public. Ms. Brown was joined at the podium by Ms. Susan Moore, Social Services Director, and Ms. Leslie Amyette, Social Work Supervisor. Ms. Moore stated that Ms. Amyette was the newest member of the Department of Social Services (DSS) Staff and she has hit the floor running. Ms. Brown stated at the first meeting in April, DSS will have a proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month. At 8:30 a.m. a ceremony will take place with a flag raising, along with child abuse awareness activities. Ms. Brown would like for all the County Commissioner to be a part of the activities. Ms. Moore stated her department is truly involved with families, assisting on all levels, from the cradle to the grave. DSS assists where they can, and where there is a need, working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Christmas and Thanksgiving, in all communities, trying to provide safety to children, as well as adults. Ms. Moore stated that her employees make home visits with clipboards and the desire to help, where deputies go out armed with guns. Ms. Moore stated they are trying to figure out how to solve problems legally and with dignity. Ms. Moore stated her agency receives calls about child abuse and neglect issues on a regular basis, usually from family members and neighbors. Ms. Moore asked Ms. Amyette if she would like to make any comments. Ms. Amyette said she was thankful for the opportunity to pursue her career here in Lenoir County where she enjoys working. Ms. Amyette stated it takes a special kind of person to be a Social Worker. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 3 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 4A was a Resolution Approving Acceptance of Senior’s Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) Grant Funds: \$1,739. Ms. Tammy Kelly, Cooperative Extension Director, stated the Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) is an important resource for the senior citizens of Lenoir County. The program provides critical information to assist seniors in choosing the types of insurance they need. The SHIIP program is currently housed at Cooperative Extension Offices in several surrounding counties. The contracted period for the grant is November 17, 2013 through September 29, 2014. Upon a motion made by Ms. Brown and second by Mr. Best, Item No. 4A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 4B Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Process Funds: \$1,739: Increase. This budget amendment appropriates the revenue and expenditure amounts for the SHIIP Grant into the FY 13-14 General Fund Budget. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 4A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 5 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Capital Projects Fund: Jail Expansion Project: \$405,553: Decrease. Ms. Martin stated this was a correcting Budget Amendment to correct a portion of Budget Amendment G-64 that was approved by the Commissioners on February 17, 2014. This amount should not have come out of Fund Balance. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution Appointing Vickie F. King as Clerk to Lenoir County Board of Commissioners and Appointing Martha H. Martin, Thomas L. Hollowell, and Lashanda A. Hall as Deputy Clerks to the Board. Mr. Jarman introduced Ms. King and stated that Ms. King has been with the County for one week as the Clerk and Administrative Assistant to the County Manager. Mr. Jarman stated he is glad to have her on board. Mr. Jarman informed Mr. Rouse that cuts were made in several places and funds were moved around to fund the Clerk's position. Mr. Jarman reiterated that no new money was budgeted to take care of this position. Mr. Jarman stated adding the Deputy Clerks would be appropriate in case Ms. King was out of the office. Mr. Jarman reminded the Board of their responsibility to appoint or designate a Clerk to the Board due to the many duties that are required by law; as always, the Clerk does serve at the pleasure of the Board. At this time we are asking the Board not only to appoint Ms. King as Clerk, but to also designate Martha H. Martin, Thomas L. Hollowell and Lashanda A. Hall as Deputy Clerks in the event Ms. King is not present. This will allow the Deputy Clerks to perform the duties of the Clerk. Mr. Hill welcomed Ms. King and thanked the individuals for filling in during the absence of a Clerk. Mr. Hill reminded the Board since a Clerk was in place, that she is the point of contact, and direct conversations should be forwarded her way. Mr. Hill stated the Board was very excited that Ms. King is on board and will be able to help with all of the duties they are trying to accomplish. Mr. Jarman commended Martha, Lashanda, Tommy and several others for doing a great job over the last three years the office acted without a Clerk and how they have jumped in and performed additional duties. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Requesting for Addition of Urban Estates Drive in Urban Estates Subdivision to State Maintained Secondary Road System. Mr. Jarman stated NC DOT sent a petition signed by the property owners of Urban Estates, requesting the street be adopted into the state maintained secondary road system. All the required paper work has been completed and they are asking the Commissioners to approve the request. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, etc. Ms. Brown stated the Board has received the following applications to the US 70 Corridor Commission: John Craft, Mac Daughety, Brian Lucas, and Mark Pope. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and second by Ms. Sutton the Board approved all the applicants to the US 70 Corridor Commission. Ms. Brown stated Lenoir Memorial Hospital is requesting approval of a new Board member. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and second by Mr. Best, the Board approved Mr. Clifton Harrison as the primary selection and Mr. Holton Harrison as an alternate.

Item No. 9 was Items from the County Manager. Mr. Jarman stated the County has received a bid for 109 East North Street of \$750.00; however, this offer is for a half undivided interest, meaning the County only has half-interest in this property. According to the bidders, they are in contact with the owners of the other half of the property, and they are willing to sell their portion as well. Mr. Jarman recommended approval of the bid to get the property back on the tax records. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and second by Ms. Sutton, the recommendation was unanimously approved. The Board received a letter dated February 18, 2014, from the U.S. Department of Labor, Mr. Ken Krantz, Administrative Law Judge. Mr. Krantz expressed his appreciation for how one of our employees and other staff helped him coordinate a meeting he held at the Lenoir County Courthouse. Mr. Jarman wanted to make sure the employees were recognized for a job well done. Mr. Jarman reminded the Board of an Education Summit meeting today at 5:30 P.M. at the Lenoir County Public Schools.

Mr. Jarman asked the Board if they wanted to hold Joint Meetings with the Town of LaGrange, Town of Pink Hill and the City of Kinston to discuss funding for the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget. Mr. Hill suggested the meetings be held on the same evenings as the current Board meetings. The Board agreed with Mr. Hill's suggestion for evening meetings, on the same nights as the regularly scheduled Commissioners' Meetings. Mr. Jarman stated he would begin working on dates and times for the meetings. Mr. Jarman asked the Commissioners to mark April 29, 2014, on their calendars to meet with Dr. Stephen Mazingo, Lenoir County Schools' Superintendent, and our North Carolina House of Representatives delegation. Mr. Jarman noted this will be a great opportunity for the Board to meet with the delegation and the school system to get all questions answered regarding the allocation of lottery funds.

Mr. Jarman stated he has received an email from Mr. Phillip G. Batten, Veterans Affairs, requesting his presence at a meeting on April 4, 2014, to meet with the Assistant Secretary of Veteran Affairs. Mr. Jarman stated he would be unavailable to attend this meeting, but welcomed any Board member to attend. Mr. Jarman asked any Board member wishing to meet with the Assistant Secretary of Veteran Affairs contact the Clerk for more information. Mr. Batten would also like to meet with the Board to discuss the local District 2 Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 2014-15 budget. Veterans Affairs usually attends a Board meeting to make their budget request known. Mr. Jarman informed the Board that on April 10, 2014, the NCACC will hold a District Meeting in Onslow County. Mr. Hill, Mr. Daughety, Ms. Brown, Mr. Best, and Ms. Sutton, will be attending. Mr. Jarman stated there is no cost to attend the meeting and a meal will be provided.

Mr. Davis recognized Ms. Jenny Ackley, who is running for a seat on the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Davis also acknowledged the passing of Mr. Billy Brewer. Mr. Brewer served as a County Commissioner from 1976-1980. Mr. Davis asked for a moment of silence in his honor. Ms. Sutton asked that a resolution honoring Mr. Brewer be presented at the next Board meeting. Mr. Hill extended his condolences to the Brewer family and stated that Mr. Brewer is to be recognized for his services in the United States military.

Ms. Brown asked the Board to congratulate the Kinston High School Boys Basketball Team for winning their 3rd straight basketball championship. Mr. Hill stated it was a very exciting time at the championship game and a very exciting time for the community. Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Ms. Brown the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Vickie F. King  
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman  
County Manager