

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 5, 2010

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 5, 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. Graham introduced Ms. Erica Johnson of Pitt Community College. Ms. Johnson is completing field work for her Elementary Education Degree. Ms. Johnson thanked the Board for allowing her to observe.

ITEMS FROM THE CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONERS

None Scheduled.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Item No. 2 was Items from the County Manager. Mr. Jarman reminded the Board of the NCACC District Meeting on Thursday, April 22, 2010 in Duplin County at The Bistro at Duplin Winery; the meeting will be held from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. After a brief discussion the Board agreed to attend the Duplin County meeting. Mr. Jarman stated the City of New Bern is celebrating its 300th anniversary. The City of New Bern is hosting a year-long celebration with events and activities that are sure to be fun for the whole family. The weekend of September 18th will be Jubilee Weekend and Lenoir County is welcomed to participate in the Jubilee parade.

Representative William Wainwright congratulated the Board for securing a North Carolina Economic Infrastructure Program grant in the amount of \$1 million from the Rural Economic Development Center. Mr. Jarman informed the Board of the Peace Officers Memorial Day Ceremony on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at Tanglewood Church at 11:00 a.m.; this is a statewide event.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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| 3. | Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: March 15, 2010 | Hall/Jarman |
| 4. | Resolution Approving the Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein | Jarman/Martin |

5. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Community Development Block Grant: Hwy.70 Industrial Park Water Project: \$.40: Decrease Jarman/Martin
6. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: DSS: \$263.68: Increase Powell/Martin
7. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Transportation Funds: Operations: \$3,206: Increase
8. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Finance/Sheriff's Department: \$3,818: Increase Jarman/Martin

PROCLAMATION/BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS

Item No. 9 was a National Library Week Proclamation: Lenoir County. Ms. Brown read the proclamation aloud for the Board and the viewing public. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Proclamation for Public Safety Telecommunicator's Week. Mr. Robert Cirbus, Lenoir County Telecommunicator Supervisor, addressed the Board. Mr. Cirbus stated he along with the rest of the telecommunicators thank the Board for the recognition. Mr. Cirbus stated telecommunicators are a group of great professionals and are not often recognized. Ms. Sutton read the proclamation aloud for the Board and the viewing public. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Board of Elections: \$6,518: Increase. Ms. Dana King, Board of Elections Director, addressed the Board. Ms. King stated the amendment appropriates grant funds from the 2010 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) grant from the State Board of Elections. In December 2009, an application was submitted to the State Board of Elections requesting funds to provide a ramp at Kinston #9 precinct, and to purchase "curbside assistance alert" signs for all 22 precincts and the four (4) One-Stop voting sites. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Pharo, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Non-Departmental: \$7,500: Increase. Ms. Martin stated the amendment appropriates General Fund Fund Balance to cover the cost of taxes due and associated foreclosure costs on recent properties acquired by the county through the foreclosure process. The county is paying itself, but this eliminates interest from being added to the books each month for these foreclosed properties. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13A was a Resolution Appropriating \$18,962 in Department of Defense Contingency Administrative Funding for Food and Nutrition Services. Mr. Jack Jones, Social Services Director, addressed the Board. Mr. Jones stated the Food and Nutrition Services Program is designed to promote the general welfare of the population, to safeguard the health and well-being of our fellow citizens, and to raise the nutritional levels of the low income households in our County. Lenoir County has the second highest poverty rate in North Carolina at 25.7%. Currently, almost forty-nine percent (48.8%) of Lenoir County residents are considered low-income with incomes below twice the Federal poverty level. The Lenoir County unemployment rate reported by the News and Observer is 12.4%. Because of similar of conditions statewide, North Carolina is opting to change the income eligibility income for the Food and Nutrition Services Program from 130% of poverty to 200% of poverty. State Officials are projecting a 40% to 60% increase in the Food and Nutrition Services caseload statewide.

Due to the high poverty rates and unemployment rate for Lenoir County, the proposed changes in the Food and Nutrition Services Categorical Eligibility Policy could increase our caseload by as much as one hundred percent (100%). The additional DOD Funding for FNS is very timely as additional manpower and overtime is needed to keep up with the rapidly increasing demand for services in the nation, the state, and in Lenoir County. Already, the Lenoir County Food and Nutrition Services caseload has increased by 34%. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 13A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13B was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: DSS: \$18,962: Increase. Upon motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 13A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14A was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Transportation: Administration/ARRA: \$369,822: Increase. Ms. Sue Powell, Transportation Director, stated the amendment appropriate funds from the New American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). These funds are a part of the President's Economic Stimulus Plan and will be used to purchase three (3) new vans, bus stop shelters, radios' and provide preventive maintenance on the entire fleet of vans and buses. These funds are designated to be spent within a two-year time frame and require no match from the county. This money is on a reimbursement basis. Due to the stringent accounting of funds, under this program, a separate account is being set up to track expenditures. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 14A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14B was a Resolution to Approve Lenoir County Transit System Safety Program Plan. Ms. Powell stated the Lenoir County Transit (LCT) which receives Grant Funding from the North Carolina Department of Transportation NCDOT is required to have a System Safety Program Plan in place to educate and insure NCDOT of the training and safety which is implemented by LCT. LCT took over operations in-house as of March 10, 2008, in which operations, staff and drivers are required to follow the guidelines as indicated in the NCDOT System Safety Program Plan. This plan will also be apart of our Safety Review at a later date. Ms. Powell introduced the Board to Transit's new Safety Officer/Grant Writer, Mr. Bill Allison. Mr. Allison stated it will be a pleasure to work for Ms. Powell and LCT. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 14B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14C was a Resolution to Approve Lenoir County Transit Charter Policy. Ms. Powell stated NCDOT has required LCT to have a Charter Policy in place to insure all guidelines in the areas of chartering are being followed. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 14C was unanimously approved.

Item No. 15 was a Resolution Approving Retirement of Sheriff's Office Canine "Hank" and to Transfer Ownership to Detective Shawn Howard. Major Chris Hill of the Sheriff's Department, stated the canine "Hank" is 13 years of age and is no longer capable of police work. Det. Shawn Howard has been Hanks handler and has requested that the dog be given to him until the animals passing. It is customary in many departments around the country to permit the handler to take ownership of the animal when the animal is retired. All costs associated with the animals upkeep is assumed by the new owner. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 15 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 16 was a Resolution Authorizing Kinston-Lenoir County Parks and Recreation to Establish a Revenue Account for the Dog Park Construction. Mr. Bill Ellis, Parks and Recreation Director, stated the Board is requested to authorize establishing a revenue account in the amount of \$18,000 for the dog park construction. This revenue would come from the Great Neuse River Duck Race, the annual Rotary Oyster Roast and various donations. The Church of Latter Day Saints have committed to scheduling a work day of approximately 150 volunteers at the Lenoir County Dog Park. This group will supply all the labor to install fencing, complete landscaping and construct a gazebo and restrooms. The workday is scheduled for Saturday, April 24, 2010. The materials to complete these projects will cost approximately \$18,000. The two fundraisers noted previously should generate approximately \$10,000. Donations will be accepted for the next 10 months. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 16 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 17A was a Resolution Authorizing Additional Funds for the Kinston-Lenoir County Parks and Recreation Budget for Fuel Oil Expense in the Pink Hill Gym (\$6,000) and for Rental of the Old Contentnea Recreation Baseball Fields for Three (3) Months (\$4,500). Mr. Ellis stated the old Pink Hill school recreation site is no longer operated by the Parks and Recreation Department. It has been purchased by a private citizen, who will be donating the property back to the County after a one (1) year period. The Recreation Department is currently using this facility while the Board of Education still has ownership of the property. Parks and Recreation will have to pay the utility costs for operating the site which includes \$6,000 worth of fuel oil that was not budgeted. The Contentnea School site was sold to a private citizen and the new Contentnea/Savannah school does not have lights on the baseball field. In order to provide a recreation program this spring and summer, the department has to lease the ball fields at the old Contentnea site, which is an additional \$4,500 non-budgeted. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 17A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 17B was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General/Capital Improvements Fund TRNSF to Other Funds/Community Development: \$10,500: Increase. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 17B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 18 was a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Lenoir Authorizing the Filing of an Application for Industrial Development Utility Funds. Mr. David Harris of RMS Harris Associates, stated with the filing of this application, the County will be even closer to obtaining the grant funding needed to construct the gas line for the Sanderson Farms project. Upon a motion by Mr. Pharo and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 18 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 19 was a Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Mapping Software from GeoSpatial Technologies: NTE: \$120,000. Mr. Roger Dail, EMS Director, stated The Lenoir County Emergency Services Department – Communications Division must maintain an up-to-date mapping system in order to remain Phase II Compliant. In order for the Lenoir County Emergency Services Department – Communications Division to accurately map and locate all callers in the County of Lenoir, including Wireless Phase II calls, it is necessary to have a computerized mapping solution. The current mapping solution is not completely compatible with all programs currently running in the Communications Center. Staff has researched and found that GeoSpatial Technologies, in partnership with Sprint-Nextel, offers a compatible and functional mapping solution that works in partnership with the VisionAir CAD software.

This will allow compatibility between the mapping solution in the Communications Center and the mapping located on the mobile data terminals in the first responder vehicles. This mapping solution also allows the Communications Division to locate a Wireless Phase II caller and to plot that caller on a map, allowing the Telecommunicator to efficiently and effectively dispatch the appropriate responder in a timely manner. The GeoSpatial Technologies mapping solution will allow for better compatibility, functionality and dependability between the mapping solution in the Communications Center and the mapping located on mobile data terminals in the first responder vehicles. It is therefore recommended that purchasing the GeoSpatial Technologies mapping solution will help reduce response times and will increase the functionality of the mapping solution in the Communications Center. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 19 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 20 was a Resolution Authorizing Southwood Volunteer Fire Department (SWVFD) to Purchase One Pumper/Tanker and Equipment by Utilizing a Grant of \$51,150 and by Securing a Loan of \$259,850 from USDA: \$341,000. Mr. Deral Raynor, Lenoir County Fire Marshall, addressed the Board. Mr. Raynor stated staff has met with Southwood Fire Department and reviewed financial records. The truck will be purchased with a \$51,150 grant from the USDA. SWVFD will be contributing \$30,000 towards a down payment; \$259,850 will be financed through USDA for twenty (20) years at a rate of 4% interest with an annual payment of \$19,123. If for some reason the loan is defaulted on by SWVFD, the County of Lenoir will not be held responsible for the loan. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 20 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 21 was a Letter Supporting Authorizing Sandy Bottom Volunteer Fire Department to Apply for a \$1.3 million Loan from the USDA for a New Fire Station. Mr. Raynor stated land has been donated to Sandy Bottom, .25 miles away from their current station. The current station is too small to hold the vehicles and all of the equipment the department utilizes on a daily basis. This letter of support is only intended for the loan application and that upon approval of the loan, and before Sandy Bottom can utilize the loan, certain criteria will have to be met. Sandy Bottom will contribute \$100,000 towards a down payment, and the remainder will be financed by USDA at a rate of 4% interest for forty (40) years. Upon a motion by Mr. Stroud and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 21 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 22 was a Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Lenoir Selecting a Gas Line Construction Company. Mr. Harris stated the 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. The County anticipates receiving grant funds for the installation of natural gas pipelines to serve Sanderson Farms, Inc. Proposals were sent to three qualified gas construction companies and Lenoir County received a qualified bid to provide professional installation services for two extensions of the natural gas pipe line construction project. Parker-Stockstill Construction Company of Elm City, NC submitted a proposal that demonstrates they are qualified to provide the construction services necessary to complete the natural gas pipe line construction extension projects in the best interests of the County. The initial estimate for the total construction cost is \$145,025.59 for the size and scope of the natural gas pipe line project. The provision of gas line construction services is subject to satisfaction of all grant conditions and release of funds conditions where applicable. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 22 was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS

Item No. 23 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 County Recreation Commission 2 nd Appearance	Roger Keith King (Re-appointment)	March 2013 M: Brown S: Sutton
Lenoir County Home and Community Block Care Committee 1 st Appearance	Audrey Tyson (Re-Appointment)	June 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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, stated it has been reported that Sanderson Farms is selling common stock to increase revenues for a new “big bone” chicken processing site. Sanderson has not chosen Wayne County as its site for the “big bone” operations as reported by media outlets. Economic Development remains very active. Mr. Humphrey stated he would like to discuss the issue of elective abortions at the next Board meeting.

Upon a motion by Mr. Davis, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Lashanda A. Hall
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager