

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 07, 2014

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 07 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, Linda Rouse-Sutton and Mac Daughety.

Members Absent: None

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Tommy Hollowell, Assistant 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 9:15 a.m. Ms. Brown offered the Invocation and Mr. Davis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Ms. Colleen Kosinski, Administrator Guardian Ad Litem stated, the agency currently has 130 volunteers, 65-70 of those live in Lenoir County. Of those volunteers, 89 percent work or go to school full-time; without these volunteers, many cases would fall through the cracks. Ms. Brown read a Child Abuse Prevention Proclamation for the Board and members of the viewing public. Ms. Kosinski recognized members of her staff and commended them for their commitment to the program, and stated they should be honored because they truly care about our youth. Mr. Hill thanked Ms. Kosinski and the volunteers for their hard work. Ms. Sutton read the Guardian Ad Litem Child Advocate Month Proclamation for members of the Board and the viewing public. Ms. Sutton recognized Ms. Nancy West who has served as Guardian Ad Litem volunteer for over 18 years. Ms. Sutton stated she was a volunteer several years ago and felt she had made a difference in the lives of those children. Mr. Hill thanked Ms. Kosinski and her staff again for their hard work and dedication to the children of Lenoir County.

Susan Moore, Director of the Lenoir County Department of Social Services stated, for the last two years the Department of Social Services has been implementing the NC Fast program. In the beginning, the agency was told that the new system would make the work more streamlined and efficient. Ms. Moore stated, unfortunately the opposite has happened. It has taken over a year to get staff trained because the system is not user friendly, and the old system worked much better. After a year in food and nutrition services, which most people know as food stamps, the new NC Fast Program is working fairly smooth.

Ms. Moore stated, duties that would only take one day to complete under the old systems, now takes workers several days to complete. On July 15, 2013, the State added the Medicaid Program to the NC Fast System and everything came to a halt. It took days to get one case processed, some cases they were not able to process at all, and it took State help to get the benefits issued. Since this past July, Lenoir County has spent over \$48,000 supporting the implementation of NC Fast. Due to system problems, staff has worked nights, and weekends to process benefits to families. Ms. Moore stated, the average processing time in food stamps has dropped from 29 days to 14; however, the Medicaid Program is still struggling. Ms. Moore asked the Commissioners to join forces with her department and contact the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and become one voice in letting the State of North Carolina know the system problems need to be addressed quickly. Mr. Hill stated, he has empathy for the struggles the department is facing and appreciates the staff's attitude and approach in getting the work done during this difficult time.

Sheriff Chris Hill stated, today is a difficult time for him and his staff, who still suffer silently and will never forget the events of the night that led to the death of Detective Allen Pearson. Time has a way of taking the edge off the pain, but it's still there. Sheriff Hill requested the Commissioners recognize April 8, 2014, as Allen Pearson Remembrance Day. Mr. Best read the Proclamation aloud for members of the Board and viewing public. Mr. Best stated, as a law enforcement officer for 25 years, it will forever be in his heart. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and second by Ms. Brown, the Proclamation was unanimously approved.

Ms. Sue Proctor, Executive Director of SAFE, stated, she was very grateful for the opportunity to speak to the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Proctor stated, the agency was donated a nice building on Glenwood Avenue by Dr. Hill and the Perry family. Many repairs have been made and the building has put them in the very heart of the community of citizens they serve. Ms. Proctor stated, the agency has invested over \$7,000 in a new heating system in the shelter facility. Ms. Proctor stated, the agency is mostly funded through State and Federal funds, which require a 20% match. Due to this funding set-up, the agency is not able to make many upgrades to the property. Ms. Proctor requested the Board budget \$4,500 to help go towards the cost of the heating system in their facility. The SAFE organization has helped over 125 victims in Lenoir County. Mr. Hill thanked Ms. Proctor for the services they provide Lenoir County and he appreciates the information. Mr. Jarman stated the Commissioners do not have a copy of SAFE's budget information at this time, but it will be available during the next budget work session.

Mr. Adrian King, Pride of Kinston Director, stated, the information within the book he distributed to the Commissioners reveals a report he received at the Main Street Conference in New Bern, NC last week. Mr. King stated, the Main Street Programs across the State have contributed over \$2 million to the economy of North Carolina. It also sites a project here in Kinston which is the Harvey-Brody Building, donated to the Pride and leased to Hill Realty; the donor also contributed \$20,000 to assist with renovations.

That project earned a \$2,000 Main Street Solution Grant which is featured in an Economic Impact Study. Kinston is the home of two new restaurants, the Boiler Room and Ginger 108. Many new businesses have come and are continuing to come to Kinston. Mr. King stated, Pride has contributed to many different projects throughout the downtown area and 2014 marks Pride's 30th anniversary. Pride has received 19 grants, created 55 jobs in the downtown area, and continues to be a force in Kinston-Lenoir County. Mr. King asked for \$25,000 from the Commissioners to help them to continue to develop Kinston. Mr. Hill thanked Mr. King for his presentation and all he does for the Community at large.

Mr. Davis stated corrections should be made to the minutes from March 17, 2014, stating, Mr. Billy Brewer was a County Commissioner from 1976-1980, it should read 1964-1980.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes: Board Meeting: March 17, 2014
2. Resolution Approving Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein
3. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Non-Departmental: \$1,208: Increase
4. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Trust & Agency Fund: Innovative Approach
Literacy (IAL): \$2,220. Increase

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT/RESOLUTIONS:

Item No. 5, was a proclamation declaring April 2014 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ms. Brown read the proclamation. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6, was a Proclamation declaring April 2014 as Guardian Ad Litem Child Advocate Month in Lenoir County. Ms. Brown read the proclamation. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7, was a Proclamation recognizing April 8, 2014, as Allen Pearson Remembrance Day. Mr. Best read the proclamation. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8A was a Resolution authorizing Asbestos Abatement and Demolition of a County Owned Building located at 220 to 228 E. Gordon Street: Enviro Assessments East, Inc.: \$18,500: Rick Bostic Construction & Demolition, Inc.: \$11,749: Total \$30,249. Mr. Mike Wiggins, Maintenance Coordinator, stated, the conditions of the building and roof were unsafe due to Hurricane Irene and presented pictures detailing the damage. Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 8A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8B was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Finance/Public Buildings: \$30,249: Increase. This amendment appropriates insurance funds for the Asbestos Abatement and Demolition of 220-228 E. Gordon Street. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 8B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment for School Building Capital Fund: \$109,026 Increase. Ms. Martin stated, we originally budgeted \$150,000 for school capital purchases. Last week, the County received a bill from the Lenoir County Public Schools asking for reimbursement for two buses and one truck, which totaled \$259,026. They were short \$109,026. Mr. Jarman stated, the Board will be seeing more of these types of requests in the future. In this instance, the purchase has already occurred, but in the future, the Board will receive them up front, prior to the purchase. When ADM Funds were available to the Schools for this type of purchase, the County was only responsible for a twenty-five percent (25%) match. A portion of our sales tax money in Article 40/42 is dedicated for school capital purposes. When the ADM funds are depleted and they need a bus, a boiler, or roof repair, it will be coming out of sales tax funds or the general fund. Mr. Jarman stated, Administration will be monitoring this closely in the future. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Selecting a CDBG Project Attorney, White and Allen of Kinston, N.C., Ms. Martha Martin, Finance Officer, stated, this is the second time this is coming before the Board. Originally, it was awarded to Mr. Griffin, and now Mr. Griffin is a County staff member and is finishing out projects he started. The Project Attorney conducts title searches that have to be done, or other legal work pertaining to the CDBG Projects. White and Allen was the second choice, when the bid was originally placed. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment General Fund Coop Ext. Kate B. Reynolds \$29,824.37 Decrease. Ms. Tammy Kelly, Cooperative Extensive Director, stated, they have received the Kate B. Reynolds Grant for the past three years. The grant is geared toward healthy eating. Ms. Kelly stated, they did not use the entire amount in the past, but did budget it in the current year budget and they should not have included it in the original budget. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved. Ms. Kelly reminded the Board of the upcoming BBQ Festival on the Neuse, May 2-3, 2014.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Declaring a used transit van as Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of the Surplus Property by Auction. Ms. Martin stated, the van has outlived its useful life and is no longer of any use to the County, with no plans to put it back into service. The proceeds from this sale, less expenses, will go back into the Transportation Fund to be used as part of the county match towards other grants and projects. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and second by Mr. Best, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Requesting the Establishment of fees for Rabies Vaccinations. Mr. Joey Huff, Health Director, stated, the law requires owners with animals four months of age or older to be vaccinated against rabies, so we want to encourage the public to avail themselves of this requirement and protect their pets from rabies. Mr. Huff stated the department will host two Rabies Clinics, one spring and one in the fall, offering discount vaccinations for a fee of \$8.00. Several local vets will be participating: Riverbank Animal Hospital, Northside Animal Hospital, Five Oaks Animal Hospital, Countryview Animal Hospital, and Animal Hospital of Lenoir County in LaGrange, NC. Ms. Sutton stated how she enjoyed the TB Clinic the Health Department facilitated. Mr. Hill thanked Mr. Huff and his staff for the great job they are doing. Upon a motion made by Ms. Brown and second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14 was a Resolution Approving the Emergency Purchase and Installation of a Microwave Link between the Emergency Services Building and the Lenoir County Courthouse: Gately Communications \$24,230.80. Mr. Roger Dail, Emergency Services Director, stated, his department had to do an emergency purchase of a Microwave System. The internet and server connection between the Emergency Services building and the Courthouse crashed due to the age of the unit; therefore, the purchase was needed. The system is needed so staff can utilize a secure internet path for access of the Division of Criminal Information as well as other law enforcement websites. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 15 was a Resolution Approving the Remount of a 2009 Chevrolet 4500 Wheeled Coach Ambulance Box: Select Custom Apparatus: \$63,963.28. Mr. Dail stated, in recent years the Department has not been able to always purchase new ambulances because the new trucks are very expensive, so he feels it is better to do a remount rather than a new purchase. Mr. Dail stated, new trucks cost around \$240,000 to \$160,000, depending on the type of truck. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 15 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 16 was a Resolution Naming a New Road in the Falling Creek Area. Mr. Wayland Humphrey, GIS Department, stated, a new road was created from the construction of the new section of the C.F. Harvey Parkway. Only one name was submitted and considered, Dr. G. L. Edwards Way. This name was unanimously approved by the Planning Board. Mr. Jarman stated the name was changed from Dr. Geo L. Edwards to Dr. G. L. Edwards because of the length of the name. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 16 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 17 was a Resolution Authorizing the Extension of Copier/Printer Lease for 23 months with CopyPro \$7,337. Ms. Dana King, Board of Elections Director, stated an extension of her current lease was requested to allow the Board of Elections to be in line with the other county departments when all copier lease agreements will expire in 2016. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and second by Mr. Best, Item No. 17 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 18 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards. Ms. Brown stated, for the Board of Equalization and Review, Mr. Walter D. LaRoque, IV has applied as a new member and for the Kinston-Lenoir County Public Library, Mr. Lloyd Moody is requesting to be re-appointed and Ms. Mary Williams is requesting appointment as well to the Library Board. All applications are first appearances for both organizations so no appointments were approved at this time.

Item No. 19 was Information from the County Manager. Mr. Jarman requested a bid be accepted for \$2,800 for a lot on Hwy. 70 East. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Brown, the bid was accepted. Mr. Jarman shared information received from the Lenoir County Board of Health. Ms. Evelyn Herring, RN for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program, was referenced in an article published in the March 2014, issue of the NC Medical Journal. Mr. Jarman stated, Ms. Herring will be appearing at a later meeting to discuss the program. Mr. Jarman shared information received from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) for County Assembly Day. The early registration fee will be waived for Commissioners. County Assembly Day will be May 28, 2014, beginning at 9:30 a.m. In the evening you will be able to meet with your Legislative Delegation. Mr. Jarman stated those wishing to attend should contact Ms. King as soon as possible. Mr. Jarman briefly shared the FY 2013-2014 Sales Tax Information. Mr. Jarman shared information he received regarding the "Evaluating Manager and Board Performance" workshop, which was originally scheduled for April. It was cancelled and the new site will be in Wilmington, with the date to be determined at a later time. Mr. Jarman stated, he felt this workshop would be beneficial to both himself as well as the Board. Mr. Hill stated, he would like to attend this workshop because it is important for all to be given an opportunity to improve. Mr. Jarman stated he felt the one day workshop would provide ways to better serve our citizens. Mr. Hill stated, the workshop would give them an opportunity to step back and look at what we are doing, do a self-evaluation, and work to improve our performance and work with Mr. Jarman to improve his as well. Ms. Sutton stated, she is in favor of Mr. Hill attending and bringing back the information.

Mr. Jarman stated, any Commissioners traveling with him on Thursday, April 10th to the District meeting in Jacksonville should meet at the Manager's office and be prepared to leave at 4:15 pm. The Board was advised to notify Ms. King know if they planned to attend.

Mr. Jarman stated, everyone should have received an email from Ms. Becky Berger with the Lenoir County Public School System, inviting Commissioners to meet with the School Board on April 29, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. Our Legislative Delegation will be there to meet with school officials. The meeting will provide an opportunity to hear the Schools express their concerns to the legislative delegates and for us to meet with the elected delegates with concerns we may have. Mr. Hill stated it's a good opportunity for the Board to discuss one of our associations main items which is the return of the lottery funding.

County Commissioners and the School Board should be of one common accord and this might give us an opportunity to show a unified effort. Ms. Brown stated, the association of County Commissioners is fighting very hard for the lottery funds to be distributed to the counties as the funds were originally intended.

Mr. Jarman reminded the Board of the next County Commissioners meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. instead of Monday, April 21, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. because Monday is Easter Monday. A budget work session will begin at 2:00 p.m. and DSS will make a presentation.

Mr. Hill stated, at this time there is an item that needs addressing. He received a resignation letter from Mac Daughety, as Chairman of the Lenoir County Transportation Committee. Mr. Hill stated, Mr. Daughety has served in multiple roles in transportation and has provided leadership to assist in many projects and has many ideas that have moved transportation in our region to the forefront as well as in our county, and we want to thank Mr. Daughety for his service. Mr. Hill stated at this time he would like to take the following action: appoint Mr. Gordon Vermillion as Chairperson of the committee and to add Eric Rouse in the place of Gordon Vermillion, as Chairman's designee. Mr. Hill stated, Mr. Rouse is actively involved in moving services and goods throughout the eastern seaboard and will bring his unique experience to the committee. Mr. Rouse's passion for aviation will serve our community as well, as we continue to look for improvement in all forms of transportation. Upon a motion made by Mr. Hill and second by Mr. Rouse, the recommendation and appointment were approved.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Davis, and unanimous approval, closed session was entered at approximately 10:34 a.m. with the following cited: Number Four (4):

To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other business in the area served by Lenoir County.

Upon motion to close by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Daughety and unanimous approval, the Board moved out of closed session at approximately 10:42 a.m. The meeting re-convened in open session at 10:45 a.m.

Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, presented a Resolution and Agreement for an expansion of a business in Lenoir County. The Neuse Sport Shop, located on 225 E. New Bern Road is planning to construct a new warehouse that will include office and flex space and purchase equipment, which will represent an investment of at least \$1.5 million and create 15 new full-time positions. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, the Economic Development Grant Agreement for expansion with Neuse Sport Shop was unanimously approved.

Mr. Dail addressed the Board and presented statistics regarding Convalescent Transports. Convalescent Transport collections consist of the following: 52.1% Medicare, 38.4% Medicaid and 5.7% from private insurance. Mr. Dail stated, the most cost effective way to provide this service is to draw from a larger population involving several counties. Mr. Dail stated, convalescent services should return to private. Mr. Dail stated, by the end of June, EMS will close down the convalescent side. This will involve the loss of 7 employees. Mr. Dail stated, he is looking at least three (3) private companies to provide these services within the county. Mr. Jarman stated, it is never easy having to make decisions regarding individual's employment. Administration was faced with the same thing in the Tax Department, when positions were eliminated. Mr. Dail will interview several private companies to provide the service. Ms. Sutton asked if the seven employees were close to retirement, because she would hate for them to lose out after so many years of service. Mr. Dail stated some of them were eligible for retirement.

Mr. Daughety applauded Mr. Jarman and Mr. Dail for their hard work and evaluating this decision. Mr. Best asked that the best representatives be chosen to take care of this service for our citizens.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Vickie F. King
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager