

## MINUTES

### LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 19, 2014

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 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 Sutton.

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 4:00 p.m. Ms. Brown offered the Invocation and Mr. Davis led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

Ms. Lucy Marston, with Lenoir County Tourism, introduced herself to the Board and to the public. Ms. Marston presented the Governor's Volunteer Service Award to Mr. Reginald Stroud. Ms. Marston stated that 2014 marked the 34<sup>th</sup> year Lenoir County has participated in the Governor's Volunteer Award Program. Ms. Marston stated Mr. Stroud is well qualified to receive the award by giving of himself, his time, and his finances to the community and Lenoir County. Ms. Marston stated this award was being presented to Mr. Stroud for 40 plus years of outstanding service to Harmony Hall. Ms. Marston stated Mr. Stroud's efforts have allowed Harmony Hall to remain open. Ms. Marston stated Mr. Stroud has served the organization since its inception and he is admired and respected by everyone at Harmony Hall. Ms. Marston stated Mr. Stroud is very dedicated and should be commended for his vast knowledge regarding the preservation of Harmony Hall. Ms. Marston informed the Board that Governor Pat McCrory stated North Carolina tourism generates over a billion dollars annually and North Carolina is the 6<sup>th</sup> most visited State in the United States. Ms. Marston thanked the Board for allowing her to present the award to Mr. Stroud and set up a reception for the Board and guests outside the Commissioners' Room. Mr. Stroud stated in 1971, the Historical Foundation was formed and it took approximately nine years to renovate Harmony Hall. Mr. Stroud stated with the help of previous County Commissioners, the renovations were made possible. Mr. Stroud stated Harmony Hall is an ongoing project and donations of any size are always much appreciated. Mr. Stroud thanked the Board and guests for the opportunity to serve Lenoir County.

Mr. Darrold Kenny Barrow addressed the Board to express his concern regarding Sheriff Hill's press release two weeks ago. Mr. Barrow stated he was before the Board today with a heavy heart. Mr. Barrow stated he started his career in law enforcement in 1988 and ended his career in 2001 with the Lenoir County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Barrow stated the comments Sheriff Chris Hill made broke the hearts of many Lenoir County citizens. Mr. Barrow stated, as an appointed official serving Lenoir County the statements Sheriff Hill made insulted over 70% of the people. Mr. Barrow stated for the appointed Sheriff of Lenoir County to state he lost the election because he, Chris Hill, was white and Mr. Ronnie Ingram won because he was black, was unfair and unjust. Mr. Barrow stated this comment was an insult to all races of people who took the time to vote. Mr. Barrow requested the Board to immediately remove Sheriff Chris Hill from office. Mr. Barrow stated since Sheriff Hill was appointed and not elected, he did not deserve to be in office. Mr. Barrow stated that the comments should not have been made by a Sheriff in his position. Mr. Barrow requested that the Board remove Chris Hill and let Ronnie Ingram finish out the term as Sheriff. Chairman Hill thanked Mr. Barrow for sharing his concerns with the Board and stated the Board would review the situation.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of Minutes: Board Meeting: April 22, 2014, Budget Work Session: April 22, 2014 & Budget Work Session: May 5, 2014. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Item No. 2 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Non-Departmental: Increase of \$2,103. Ms. Martin stated the Amendment was to appropriate additional property tax revenue, received by the County as a result of a business personal property tax audit. Ms. Martin stated the audit was being conducted by County Tax Services. Ms. Martin stated the County contracted with them to conduct the audit in May 2010. Ms. Martin stated the County pays a commission to County Tax Services, only after the taxpayer pays the discovery tax bill. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 2 was unanimously approved.

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

### **BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS**

Item No. 3 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Process Funds: Increase of \$9,397. Mr. Milas Kelly stated the appropriation was for additional funding received from the Division of Juvenile Justice for the Teen Court Program. Upon a motion made by Ms. Brown and second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 3 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 4 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Process Funds: Increase of \$43,963. Mr. Milas Kelly stated the amendment was to appropriate additional funds received from the Division of Juvenile Justice Department for the Structured Day Program. Mr. Kelly stated he received notification from the NC Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice on May 5, 2014, regarding the additional funding. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 5 was a Resolution requesting Approval of a Purchase Order to Blizzard Building Supply Company for \$9,765. Mr. Bill Ellis, Parks & Recreation Director, stated, Tands, Inc. donated \$35,000 for the construction of the Bojangles Picnic Pavilion at the Lions Water Adventure Water Park. Mr. Ellis stated the Parks & Recreation Department agreed to build the pavilion and needs roof trusses, shingles, and decking boards to complete the construction. Mr. Ellis stated the Water Park opens Memorial Day weekend and this feature will allow additional shaded seating for 125 people. Mr. Ellis stated this is the only two story picnic pavilion in North Carolina and will be a great asset to the Water Park. Mr. Ellis commended Mr. Cam McCrae for his great contribution to the Park. Mr. Ellis thanked Mr. Reuben Davis for the donation of a van, which will be used to transport individuals from the parking lot to the Water Park. Mr. Ellis stated the van was hand painted by students at North Lenoir High School. Mr. Ellis stated the picnic pavilion will help to attract additional visitors to our community and will allow them to hold corporate parties at the Water Park. Mr. Ellis stated this year the Woodmen center will have more staff, better parking, and better music. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution for the Approval of a Purchase Order to Waters Industrial in the amount of \$11,550. Mr. Bill Ellis, Parks & Recreation Director, stated the construction of the picnic pavilion requires the use of a crane and the welding of steel. Mr. Ellis stated Waters Industrial will provide the crane to set the steel and will weld the components. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. Ms. Jackie Brown re-appointment to the Lenoir County DSS Board and Ms. Debbie Wise, appointment to the Lenoir County Planning Board. No action was taken since this is the first appearance for both Ms. Brown and Ms. Wise.

<u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u>	<u>APPLICANT/ CURRENT MEMBER</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
<b>Lenoir County DSS</b>	Ms. Jackie BROWN(Re-Appointment)  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Appearance</b>	
<b>Lenoir County Planning</b>	Debbie Wise  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Appearance</b>	

Item No. 8 was Items from the County Manager. Mr. Jarman stated the copies of the Financial Performance Summary, the Lenoir County Permit/Inspection Report, and the Monthly Performance Status Report for the ongoing CDBG Project were self explanatory, and unless anyone had questions, he had nothing further to present.

Ms. Brown stated she would like to make a motion that the Board present a Resolution honoring Mr. Coley Little, former ABC Board member. Ms. Brown stated, once the Resolution is ready, she will make contact with Mr. Little's wife and family. Ms. Brown stated this would enable them to attend the Commissioners meeting for the presentation. Mr. Jarman stated a name has been submitted for the vacant position with the ABC Board and it will appear on the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Agenda. Ms. Sutton stated the ABC Board has closed on their building. Mr. Jarman stated those who plan on attending Assembly Day in Raleigh should notify Ms. King by tomorrow so she could get them registered. Mr. Jarman stated the NCACC has waved the registration fee for all County Commissioners. Mr. Rouse stated he would try to attend, Ms. Brown, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Best stated they would be attending.

Mr. Hill stated he has been given a County email account for the purpose of conducting all County business. Mr. Hill stated any matters pertaining to the Commissioners' business should be sent to him at [wchill@co.lenoir.nc.us](mailto:wchill@co.lenoir.nc.us). Mr. Hill stated the Eastern Region, will cease to exist after June 30, 2014. Mr. Hill stated the County has drawn down a portion of our money with a good amount remaining. Mr. Hill stated if the County decision is to stay a part of the Alliance, they will utilize the money for the dues. Mr. Hill stated the dues will exist for another five years, and at that time the County will have to begin paying the dues. Mr. Hill stated the Board will have to decide between our meetings in June, if we will remain with Eastern Alliance, or if we will pull out. Mr. Hill stated the Board has been working with their Attorney and our Attorney to make the transition smooth. Mr. Hill stated the County is trying to be a good steward. Mr. Hill stated he would appreciate the Board making this a collective decision.

Mr. Hill stated he received a resignation email from Mac Daughety, from the US 70 Corridor Commission and the Rural Planning Organization. Mr. Hill stated at this time he would like to appoint, Eric Rouse to the Rural Planning Organization Board and Linda Sutton to the US 70 Corridor Commission. Mr. Hill stated the term expiration date for the R.P.O. Board seat is in December, and Mr. Rouse would have to be re-appointed at that time for another two year term.

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Best it was unanimously approved by the Board to appoint Mr. Rouse to the Rural Planning Organization Board and Ms. Sutton to the US 70 Corridor Commission.

Mr. Jarman asked if there were any budget questions or concerns at this time, because he wanted to have a public hearing on June 2, 2014. Mr. Rouse asked since we are not moving forward with the Soccer Complex, what are the plans with the money? Mr. Jarman stated the money would return to the Fund Balance of Fund 40.

Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Daughety the Soccer Complex money will remain in the fund 40 (capital improvements) Fund Balance. Called to Question - Mr. Daughety,

Yes - Mr. Best, Yes - Mr. Hill, Yes - Ms. Brown, Yes -Mr. Rouse, Yes, Mr. Davis, No and Ms. Sutton, No.

Mr. Hill stated he commended the staff for their hard work on the budget, and showing that the County is in good financial standing. Mr. Hill thanked the administrative staff for allowing the Board to have the budget in hand to review and mark for questions. Mr. Hill stated this will allow the Board to do their due diligence.

Mr. Hill asked if anyone had any other business. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Vickie F. King  
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman  
County Manager