

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 02, 2014

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, June 02, 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 9:00 a.m. Ms. Brown offered the Invocation and Mr. Rouse led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Mr. Gordon Vermillion, Chairman of the Lenoir County Transportation Committee, thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide them with an update. Mr. Vermillion stated it is a great committee, and he thanked Mr. Daughety for all of his work on the committee. Mr. Vermillion stated the committee met in May to discuss some SPOT projects, which they rated prior to the Rural Planning Organization meeting. Mr. Vermillion stated they met with all Municipalities: Pink Hill, Kinston, LaGrange, and Lenoir County on these projects before attending the committee meeting. Mr. Vermillion stated they received a list of 24 Projects ranking them by category and priority. Mr. Vermillion stated the listing was also broken down by Division; Regional and State, with different criteria and point systems. Mr. Vermillion stated he received input from elected officials as well as committee members. Mr. Vermillion stated he had a copy of the list, but it was too lengthy; however, if the Board desired copies, he would have Amanda Connor with Economic Development to print hard copies. Mr. Vermillion asked if anyone had any questions regarding the priority list. Mr. Vermillion shared with the Board the list of TIP Projects and that the Felix Harvey Parkway was now open from Hwy 70 to US 58. Mr. Vermillion stated that the Parkway had a very low key opening, because NCDOT did not want any fanfare. Mr. Vermillion shared a couple of areas of interest, such as bridge numbers 42 and 43, which are the Queen Street Bridges near Hwy 70.

Mr. Vermillion stated the Queen Street Bridge Project will start in 2015, and Queen Street will be closed for many months. Mr. Vermillion stated Kinston River Walk is in the design stages. Mr. Vermillion stated they are waiting on the path to be established and a committee was working on that. Mr. Vermillion shared information on non TIP Projects such as Smithfield Way, which Mark Pope and Mac Daughety provided a lot of input. Mr. Vermillion stated NCDOT will be extending Smithfield Way, from Hill Farm Road to Hwy 258. It is scheduled to be completed in November 2014. Mr. Vermillion stated there were issues with the left hand turn lanes from Hwy 70 going North on Hill Farm Road. Extending the turn lanes will help with congestion. Mr. Vermillion stated that NCDOT has opened up bids for resurfacing 36 plus miles of rural Lenoir County secondary roads and 3.2 miles of primary roads. Mr. Hill thanked Mr. Vermillion for the work he is doing and appreciates the update. He also thanked Mr. Daughety for helping to make this a smooth transition. Mr. Hill stated we have a lot of work to do, this is important work, and we appreciate the update.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes: Board Meeting: May 19, 2014. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Best, the minutes were unanimously approved.

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

Item No. 2 was a Resolution honoring Mr. Coley Little, Jr.: Ms. Brown read the resolution. Ms. Betty Little, wife of the late Coley Little, Jr., stated she was eternally grateful to the Board for recognizing Mr. Little. Ms. Little stated since his death, she has learned there were so many lives that Mr. Little had impacted, either in school, coaching, or in other areas. Ms. Little thanked the Board for remembering Mr. Little and stated he will be sorely missed, but this resolution helps her so much with her memories of him. Mr. Hill stated it meant a lot for Ms. Brown to be able to present the Resolution and also meant a lot for him to be able to be in this seat. Mr. Hill stated Mr. Little was his colleague, mentor, and a giant of a citizen in Lenoir County.

Item No. 3 Ms. Brown read a Resolution honoring Ms. Sharon Bryant-Willoughby who is retiring from the Department of Social Services. Ms. Bryant-Willoughby thanked the people of Lenoir County for the opportunity to serve and stated she hoped she was able to make a difference in someone's life during her years of service. Ms. Moore stated Ms. Bryant-Willoughby is one of the long list of baby boomers going home, and the Department of Social Services is losing a lot of good people to retirement.

Item No. 4 was a Public Hearing Regarding the FY14-15 Budget. Ms. Brown made a motion to go into the Public Hearing and this motion was seconded by Ms. Sutton.

No one from the Public wished to comment on the FY14-15 Submitted Budget and Budget Ordinance.

9:22 Ms. Brown made a motion to close Public Hearing and a second by Ms. Sutton.

Mr. Hill asked if any Board member had any questions, or concerns regarding the submitted budget. Mr. Hill stated he had several items brought to him over the course of the week. One was regarding the funding of \$58,000 to the Volunteer Fire Departments. Mr. Hill stated he was asked if this was a new item or one that had been slid in. Mr. Hill stated he was able to respond to a couple of citizens as to what had been done, and it appeared that his response satisfied them. Mr. Hill stated other issues were brought to his attention by commission members regarding to the Ruritian Building at Moss Hill. Mr. Hill stated they questioned the budget impact and our liability. Mr. Hill stated he was not asking for a change at this time, but for staff to look into the situation and get back with the Board. Ms. Brown stated she would like to compliment DSS with the positive impact they had on the budget. In past years, we had huge amounts of funding that had to be given to DSS as the County part. Ms. Brown stated it has been reduced and the County should be thankful. Mr. Hill stated he would like to commend the staff on their work on the budget. Mr. Hill stated the budget process is a difficult process for the Board and for Administration. Mr. Hill stated it takes precautionary measures when you are dealing with the lives and well being of families and citizens. Mr. Hill stated the Board has taken on a budget that has eliminated a department, some positions, and includes a 2% raise for employees to keep them in line with those around us. Mr. Hill stated the Board has weighed it every way that we possibly can. Mr. Hill asked if there is a motion to approve the budget. A motion was made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown to approve the FY14-15 Budget as submitted. All voted in favor. Mr. Hill stated he appreciates the unanimous vote on the budget and the work that has been done to accomplish this. Mr. Hill stated Administration and Department Heads should be commended for holding the lines and continuing to balance services and revenues. Mr. Rouse stated he appreciated all the work everyone did in pulling the team together and allowing them to work together and provide input. Mr. Rouse stated he thinks the team accomplished a lot. He echoed it was a very difficult budget. He felt we will be fine for the next several years. Ms. Sutton stated she felt it was a great compromise of everybody giving and taking and to realize the Board did what was best for the County. Ms. Brown stated she appreciated everyone's input and giving feed back to Mr. Hill. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS

Item No. 5 was a Resolution Authorizing the Award of Contract for Additional Demolition Services for the Scattered Site Project: Mr. David Harris stated Lenoir County was awarded \$225,000 for the CDBG 2012 Scattered Site Project on March 26, 2013. Mr. Harris stated bids were taken for the demolition of three structures, and the contracts were awarded to Bobby Cahoon Construction. Mr. Harris stated the Lenoir County Health Department inspected the site,

and required installation of a new septic system. Mr. Harris stated in order to install the new septic system, additional clearing of trees, underbrush and debris is necessary to accommodate the location of the new septic system.

Mr. Harris stated this was actually a change order to the existing demolition contract with Bobby Cahoon Construction on the Peter Sutton house. Mr. Harris stated they had received the estimate for the house and demolition. Mr. Harris stated once the Health Department identified the need for the septic system, they worked with the family on the orientation of the house. Mr. Harris stated once they got everything spotted on the lot, it was clear that a lot of trees needed to be removed. In the end the house will be seated on the site and the new septic system in place will best benefit the homeowner. Upon a motion made by Mr. Davis and second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution to approve the Purchase of a Genie AWP-20S Aerial Work Platform: Gordy's Equipment: \$7,304. Mr. Wiggins stated the tall ceilings in the Courtrooms, atriums, and the new jail make it extremely difficult to manage repairs. Mr. Wiggins stated the Genie is a one-man compact lift with a 26 ft. working height and a capacity of 350 pounds. It is mobile and conveniently folds-up to fit into a standard elevator. Mr. Wiggins stated they had a lot of places in the courthouse they were not able to reach due to the height. Mr. Wiggins stated upon approval the equipment would be delivered within 5 weeks. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution requesting approval of a Purchase Order: COECO: \$16,000. Ms. Moore stated the Lenoir County Department of Social Services began implementation of a paperless system in FY12-13. Ms. Moore stated this process has streamlined work flow, reduced worker time and prevented the loss of records/information. Ms. Moore stated to continue this process the Department must renew the License Software annually through COECO. Ms. Moore stated this was due the first of June and will allow the department to pay for maintenance for this year, and she will bring another purchase order back at the next meeting for next year. Ms. Moore stated this is already budgeted and will be reimbursed at 50%. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution requesting approval for DSS to purchase 4 vehicles and 12 tablets. Ms. Moore stated the Department of Social Services has some Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) money available. It is 100% Federal money. Ms. Moore stated the Lenoir County Department of Social Services currently has nine vehicles in their fleet. Ms. Moore stated there are 20 Child Protective Service Social Workers, 7 Foster Care Social Workers, and 2 Work First Social Workers who can be in the field at any time. Ms. Moore stated the vehicles they currently have are not sufficient for all Social Workers and require workers at times to transport children in their own personal vehicles. Ms. Moore stated the additional 4 vehicles will allow the agency to meet the needs of the Social Workers without incurring any cost to the County. Ms. Moore stated the agency has 9 vehicles serving 22 people. Ms. Moore stated DSS currently spends \$23,000 on maintenance on the vehicles they current have. Mr. Hill asked Ms. Moore what type of transportation the workers use now? Ms. Moore stated they are using their

own vehicles. Ms. Moore stated the department has spent \$22,669 in travel expenses. Ms. Moore stated the vehicles will only be used by Children's Services workers.

Ms. Moore stated CPS placed 12 children into Foster Care this month, which was higher than most Counties east of 95. Ms. Moore stated they are removing children due to substance abuse, domestic violence, and sexual abuse. Ms. Moore stated the majority of the kids have been neglected, and were in need of baths before they were able to be taken into homes. Ms. Moore stated most of the kids are sweet, but the problem is there are so few Foster Homes in Lenoir County. Ms. Moore stated it's getting difficult to keep up with and we need more people to foster the children. Ms. Moore stated they had to place the bulk of the children in Duplin County, because Lenoir County doesn't have enough Foster Homes. Mr. Hill stated it seems to be an urgent need for Foster Care in the community, maybe we can spread the news regarding Foster Care and folks might step up and make a difference. Ms. Sutton stated perhaps Ms. Moore's staff can go around and do presentations at churches and civic groups. Mr. Hill stated we do encourage our citizens to step up, look into the Foster Care or Guardian Ad Litem program, and give the young people the support they need to move forward with their lives. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution requesting approval for a new road name in the Deep Run area. Mr. Jarman stated the Board has a memo from the Planning Board about this subject. Mr. Jarman stated when the new Deep Run bypass was put in, it cut off about a 1/8 mile segment of Tulls Mill Road which ran from old Highway 11. Mr. Jarman stated information was sent to the individuals who live in the area regarding the need for a name change. Mr. Jarman stated only one name was submitted, South Lenoir Drive, and no one objected to the name. Upon a motion by Ms. Davis and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution authorizing the payroll for eight (8) Precinct Workers for hours worked in the May 2014 Primary. Ms. King stated she would like for the Board to allow her to pay 8 precinct workers. Ms. King stated she was overwhelmed because she had 34 poll workers to either resign, quit or pass away within three or four weeks. She was still looking for poll workers the day before the election. Ms. King stated she was working trying to get the new workers trained. Ms. King stated she did not have the time to get the action forms over before the election date. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Resolution approving citizens to boards, commissions, etc. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved for Ms. Brown's re-appointment to the Lenoir County Department of Social Services Board and Ms. Debbie Wise's appointment to the Lenoir County Planning Board. No action was taken for Mr. Mills, ABC Board, Ms. Brown, Lenoir County Tourism, and Mr. Grady, LCC Board since this is the first appearance for the three.

<u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u>	<u>APPLICANT/ CURRENT MEMBER</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
Lenoir County DSS	Ms. Jackie Brown(Re-Appointment) 2nd Appearance	2017
Lenoir County Planning	Ms. Debbie Wise 2nd Appearance	2015
Lenoir County ABC	Mr. Edward Mills 1st Appearance	2017
Kinston Lenoir County Tourism	Ms. Jackie Brown(Re-Appointment) 1st Appearance	2016
Lenoir Community College	Mr. Grady Bethel(Re-Appointment) 1st Appearance	2018

Ms. Sutton stated congratulations were in order for Ms. Brown, who received the Lenoir County Chamber of Commerce Pinnacle Award. Mr. Hill stated he appreciated the Chamber recognizing Ms. Brown for her leadership, and the service she provides to the community. Mr. Hill stated Ms. Brown has worked hard for many years and unsung ways that people did not even know about. Mr. Hill stated it was a deserving award. Mr. Davis stated the Kinston Free Press did a wonderful job on the article referencing the Presidential Plane touch and go. Ms. Sutton reminded the Board that dinner will be served today at 5:30 p.m. during the annual Red Cross Meeting held at the Woodmen Community Center. Mr. Hill stated a Door Step Prayer Vigil will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday June 4, 2014, at Westminster United Methodist Church. Ms. Brown reminded the Board that a program will be held regarding Elder Abuse Awareness month at the Veteran's Home on June 13, 2014, at 11:00 a.m.

Item No. 12 was Items from the County Manager. Mr. Jarman stated copies of the Monthly Performance Status Report for the ongoing CDBG Project were self explanatory, and unless anyone had questions, he had nothing further to present. All projects are on time and on schedule.

Ms. Brown made a motion to go into closed session and Ms. Sutton seconded the motion.

Mr. Jarman stated Mr. Pope is on vacation and shared a resolution in support of Project Ellen, to expand its manufacturing facility in Kinston/Lenoir County. Mr. Jarman stated NCDOT will have a meeting next week, and needed this resolution passed prior to its meeting. Mr. Jarman

stated Lenoir County is committed to working with NCDOT to make needed transportation improvements. Mr. Jarman stated this is necessary to protect the safety of the public, contractors, and employees of Project Ellen. Mr. Jarman stated Lenoir County endorses the application to NCDOT for Project Ellen. Mr. Jarman stated this request for financial support from the North Carolina Department of Transportation is to assist in the funding of a rail industrial access track to serve Project Ellen.

Mr. Rouse asked if the County knew the design, was it a loop or just another spur. Mr. Jarman replied he believed it was a spur but the industry had enough acres for a loop.

At 9:50am Mr. Daughety made a motion to go back into open session with a second by Mr. Best

Amanda Connor with Lenoir County Economic Development, read the Project Ellen Resolution to the Board and audience. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, the resolution for Project Ellen was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hill stated he would like to thank everyone for their input on the budget and for a very productive meeting. He asked if anyone had any other business. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie F. King
Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager