

**MINUTES**  
**LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**June 4, 2012**

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9:00 am on Monday, June 4, 2012 in the Board Commissioners Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members present: Chairman George Graham, Vice-Chairman Reuben Davis and Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Mac Daughety, Tommy Pharo, Eric Rouse, and Linda Rouse Sutton.

Members Absent: None

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

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 am. Ms. Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Graham led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

None Scheduled

**ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR/COMMISSIONERS**

Mr. Graham stated on May 24, 2012, Ms. Sutton was presented with the Annual Pinnacle of Achievement Award. The award is given to a local professional who demonstrates excellence, creativity, and initiative in her profession and provides valuable service by contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life in her community. The Board congratulated Ms. Sutton on her achievement.

**ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER**

Item No. 2 was items from the County Manager; Mr. Jarman recommended the Board accept the following bid: 207 E. Highland Ave., Kinston, NC (\$4,000). Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Sutton the Board unanimously approved the bid.

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Pharo, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: May 21, 2012  
Special Called Meeting: May 14, 2012
4. Resolution Approving the Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein
5. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Trust and Agency Fund: Finance/Extension Family Caregiver: \$1,586: Increase
6. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Finance/Sheriff's Dept.: \$1,952: Increase
7. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Process Funds: \$3,230: Increase

## **PROCLAMATION/BUDGET ORDINANCE/RESOLUTIONS**

Item No. 8 was a Proclamation Honoring Social Service Employees. Ms. Brown read the proclamation aloud for the Board and the viewing public. Ms. Susan Moore, Social Services Director addressed the Board detailing the many services performed at Social Services. Services provided by Social Services are wide spread and affect the young and old alike. Ms. Moore thanked the Board for granting recognition to a great group of employees. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Honoring Barbara Seymour. Item was tabled until next meeting.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Authorizing Support of Continuance of Health Department Clinics and Services through FY 2012-13: \$363,976. Mr. Joey Huff, Health Director addressed the Board. Mr. Huff stated the resolution provides sufficient account of expenditures for the Health Department. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11A was a Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County Cooperative Extension to enter into a One Year Contract with Charles Hughes Construction LLC for FY 12-13 at a cost of \$3,296. Ms. Tammy Kelly, Cooperative Extension Director, addressed the Board. Ms. Kelly stated Charles Hughes Construction (formerly Wheat Swamp Landscaping) has provided grounds maintenance for the past six (6) years. The contract price has remained the same for the past three (3) years. Upon a motion from Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 11A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11B was a Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County Cooperative Extension to Enter into a Computer Lease with Mac Computers: \$5,019. Ms. Kelly stated North Carolina Cooperative Extension converted to the Mac Computer lease system in 2007. As a result the Lenoir County Center of Cooperative Extension converted and began participating in the program. Upon a motion from Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 11B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11C was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: COOP Ext-Kate B Reynolds: \$76,572: Increase. Ms. Kelly stated the amendment appropriates grant funds from the Kate B. Reynolds Grant. The Commissioners approved the acceptance of these grant funds on January 7, 2012-Item #6. These funds will be used to increase healthy food access for lower income people through local business opportunities. This grant will run from April 2012 through March 2015 with unspent funds bring rolled forward at the beginning of each fiscal year. This is the first of three installment payments. Upon a motion from Mr. Pharo and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 11C was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Blanket Purchase Orders to the Following Companies for Yearly Software/Hardware Maintenance: \$175,450. Mr. Joey Bryan, MIS/Transit Director, addressed the Board. Mr. Bryan stated the resolution details the County's many software maintenance obligations. These contracts allow the County to upgrade and have access to service for all hardware and software. Upon a motion from Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Blanket Purchase Orders to the Following Companies for FY 2012-13 for Lenoir County Transit: \$104,000. Mr. Bryan stated the purchase orders cover operations for Lenoir County Transit for FY 12-13. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

Item No 14 was a Resolution Authorizing the Lease Agreement of the Walter Ramsey Road (Hugo Repeater): \$9,000. Mr. Roger Dail, Emergency Services Director stated there has been a degradation of signal strength in the Hugo/Grifton area over the last five- (5) years. Through a series of tests, staff has eliminated the possibility of interference with other public safety 800MHz radio systems, as well as local cellular companies as a reason for the increasing loss of coverage in that area. The result of the degradation of signal strength in this area has become an increasing concern to the public safety responders in that area. Staff has determined that placing a non-trunked 800MHz conventional repeater site identical to LaGrange and Deep Run would temporarily resolve the signal issues in that area, pending an overall upgrade of the 800MHz radio system to a digital system in Lenoir County. The owner of the tower located on Walter Ramsey Road has agreed, through written agreement, to lease the tower to Lenoir County for use as a non-trunked repeater site to allow for coverage in this northeast sector of the County. This site will be called the "Hugo Repeater" site and is physically located at 2971 Walter Ramsey Rd, Kinston and is owned by Les Rouse. Mr. Rouse is leasing this tower to Lenoir County at a cost of \$750.00 per month, in comparison to an estimated \$1,200.00 per month lease from other tower companies. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Pharo, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 15 was a Resolution Authorizing FY 12-13 Service Contract and Purchase Orders for Court Facility/Public Buildings Department: \$178,973. Mr. Mike Wiggins, Maintenance Coordinator, addressed the Board. Mr. Wiggins stated all contracts are the same as last fiscal year with no increases. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 15 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 16A was a Resolution Approving Purchase of a Replacement Voice Stress Analyzer: \$4,290. Major Chris Hill addressed the Board stating The Sheriff's Office has been using voice stress analysis for the past 17 years to detect deception during investigative and pre-employment interviews. Recently the Computerized Voice Stress Analyzer (CVSA) hard drive failed, rendering the device inoperable. As a result, the Sheriff's Office was forced to quickly purchase a new CVSA so that the Sheriff's Office could continue the applicant process for new detention officers. The current CVSA instrument is 8 years old. The CVSA is a product sold exclusively by the National Institute for Truth Verification (NITV), which is located in West Palm Beach, Florida. The NITV has agreed to replace the inoperable CVSA for a new one, at half the cost. In addition, the Sheriff's Office will be permitted to send one detective through the CVSA certification course at a discounted price. The price of the CVSA instrument is \$3795 and the course is \$495 for a total of \$4290. The funds to purchase this piece of equipment will come from the Sheriff's Federal Asset Forfeiture line, and not tax money. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 16A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 16B was a Resolution Approving Purchase Orders for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year (Sheriff's Department): \$146,130. Major Hill stated purchase orders will be permitted to the listed vendors to provide equipment, services and/or supplies for the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 16B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 16C was a Resolution Approving Purchase Orders for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year (Jail): \$773,864. Major Hill stated purchase orders will be permitted to the listed vendors to provide equipment, services and/or supplies for the Lenoir County Jail. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 16B was unanimously approved. Mr. Graham asked about the progress of the new jail. Major Hill stated the expected completion date of the jail will be August 2012. The Sheriff's Office is currently in the process of hiring 21 new jailers who will begin work in mid September.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Item No. 17 as a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. The following reflects existing vacancies and appointments. None Scheduled.

<b>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</b>	<b><u>APPLICANT/ CURRENT MEMBER</u></b>	<b><u>TERM EXPIRATION</u></b>
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**CURRENT VACANCIES:**

- Lenoir County Health Board – (1) Veterinarian, (1) Optometrist, (1) Pharmacist, (1) Dentist**
- Lenoir County Planning Board – Districts One (1), Four (4) and Alternate**
- Grifton Planning Board – One (1) Vacancy**
- CJPP – Three (3) Vacancies**
- Kinston Board of Adjustment – Two (2) ETJ Members; (1) Primary – (1) Alternate**

Mr. Graham brought up for discussion the one-quarter percent (0.25%) sales tax in Lenoir County. Mr. Graham stated the Board has discussed forming a committee to help inform and educate the public on the sales tax increase. Mr. Graham stressed the importance of the entire Board being in favor of the increase before proceeding with a committee. Mr. Graham highlighted the achievements of the community and increases in taxes voted by citizens for the library and schools. Mr. Graham stated the goal of a sitting Board should be to protect the ad valorem tax base. Mr. Daugehty stated he has been consistent in saying he is not in favor of raising taxes. Mr. Daughety stated he is not opposed to forming a committee to look at the sales tax increase; but feels if the sales tax is approved by the citizens there should relief of the ad valorem tax rate. Mr. Davis stated no one wants a property tax increase, but he does not want the County to end up in a situation like Jones County with a potential \$0.08 property tax increase in the future. Mr. Pharo stated he is in favor of forming a committee and stressed the importance of the future sales tax monies being earmarked for debt and not for new expenditures. Mr. Pharo also agrees there should be a break on property taxes if approved by the citizens. Mr. Pharo stated Onslow County earmarked where the funds would be allocated and it was approved by their citizens. Mr. Davis stated he does not understand the point for earmarking where funds will be allocated, when all monies collected will contribute to no property tax increase for citizens. Ms. Sutton agreed of the need for a committee and advised all Board members to accept recommendations from the commission.

Mr. Jarman told the Board they needed to consider future needs of the County when looking at the sales tax increase. As County Administration we are here to educate not advocate for the sales tax increase. Mr. Jarman cautioned the Board on the way they proceed to earmark funding for certain projects. State funding burdens could easily shift to the County causing funds to be allocated differently than promised; burdens could also increase the ad valorem tax rate.

When educating the public the Board has to be educated as well to give accurate information to all citizens. Commissioners have to educate themselves on the current and future needs in all aspects of County government. Mr. Rouse stated he was in agreement with forming a committee and allowing them to come back with recommendations. The Board agreed to each member submitting three (3) candidates to form the committee. All names, district and area of expertise should be submitted to County Administration no later than June 12, 2012.

Ms. Sutton requested a letter thanking Representative Stephen LaRoque and SEANC for their work to keep Dobbs Youth Development Center and the Lenoir Center open. Ms. Brown also requested a letter be sent to Coach Wells Gullledge at Kinston High School, thanking him for his support of Kinston High School athletics for the past 11 years.

Upon a motion by Mr. Graham and a second by Mr. Davis, the meeting adjourned 10:27 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lashanda A. Hall  
Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By

Michael W. Jarman  
County Manager