

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 18, 2016

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 18, 2016, 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, Commissioners, Roland Best, Mac Daughety, Reuben Davis, Eric Rouse, and Linda Rouse Sutton.

Members Absent: None

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Joey R. Bryan, Assistant County Manager, Tracy Chestnutt, 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. Rouse led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Susan Moore, DSS Director, introduced Ms. Valerie Williams, Income Maintenance Administrator. Ms. Moore stated she would be sharing information regarding the Crisis Intervention Program (CIP), and Disaster Planning for individuals with special medical needs. Ms. Moore stated CIP assists with heating or cooling related emergencies. This federal program is intended to prevent death or serious injury caused by extreme heat or cold. Although many Lenoir County households meet the income and citizenship criteria for CIP, the household must be experiencing a heating or cooling crisis to qualify for CIP assistance. Eligible households may receive up to \$600 in assistance. Sometimes if the crisis need exceeds \$600, the CIP case worker will negotiate with the vendor for a payment plan or reduce the cost, ask the applicant to pay the excess costs, or coordinate with other local service providers to pay the excess costs. The CIP program also help with utility bills, past due utility bills with a disconnect notice, and can provide air conditioner repair or replacement. Also, they are able to offer a small window air conditioner to households containing children under the age of 5, adults age 60 or above, and individuals with a serious medical condition that is adversely impacted by the heat. Other households will be offered fans. The CIP program can provide repairs or replacement of cooling appliances, temporary shelter, repairs or replace windows, roofs, walls, electrical wiring repair or replacement that allows the home to be heated or cooled. They can also help with installation of gas lines for heating the home, and replacement of insulation in the home. The CIP applicant must be the home owner to qualify for home repairs, wiring, or installation of gas lines. Ms. Moore stated if anyone has additional CIP questions to contact Ms. Vanessa Keyes, Energy Assistance Supervisor, at 252-559-6268. Ms. Moore stated in regards to disaster planning for individuals with special medical needs in times of emergency, there is a special medical need voluntary registration form that a person can fill out.

This form will enable emergency management officials to quickly locate the person and know ahead of time the type of help each individual person will need. This information will be kept confidential. Once a person is registered, DSS will start contacting individuals asking their plans for adverse weather conditions, and if they don't have a plan DSS will help them develop one. Mr. Daughety asked Ms. Moore how far in advance should the individual contact the agency in order to receive help. Ms. Moore replied, at least 3-4 days, or as soon as one hears the news of a hurricane coming to our area.

Mr. Hill encouraged citizens to check on their elderly neighbors with special medical needs within the community. Also, it is important to get this information out to the public especially with the extreme heat that we have been experiencing lately.

Eunisa B. Johnson, Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director, introduced herself to the Board and shared handouts. Ms. Johnson thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak today. Ms. Johnson stated she came to the Lenoir County office in April of 2016. FSA are your neighbors, community, and friends and they are here to help the farmers, ranchers, and landowners. In this great county we have a tremendous amount of farm land. FSA provides a financial safety net to America's farmers and ranchers, while at the same time protecting natural resources, and enhancing food security. Our goal is to help people get the most out of their land as well as keeping their land healthy. FSA brought about \$44 million into Lenoir County this past year through grants, loans and programs available in our county office. If someone is seeking help we are willing to find the help that is needed. We take pride in bridging ourselves to other individuals that we may be able to serve in the time of need. Ms. Johnson stated anyone can visit their office anytime which is located on Highway 11/55 near the Kinston Drag Strip.

Mr. Hill thanked Ms. Johnson and welcomed her to Lenoir County. Mr. Hill stated farming is important to our community, to our economy and, to the State of North Carolina.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: June 20, 2016.
2. Resolution Approving the Submission for Grant Funding for the Community Hands-only CPR Education: Wal-Mart Foundation, Community Grants Program: \$1,725.23.

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 Resolution Authorizing Establishment of the Green/Lenoir County Boundary Line. Wayland Humphrey, GIS Coordinator, stated North Carolina Geodetic Survey worked closely with GIS Coordinators from Greene and Lenoir county as well as extensive research of historical archive maps, property deeds, and survey maps depicting the Greene/Lenoir county boundary line. Their work resulted in a Report of Research Findings which concluded that the original county line descriptions, historic maps, land grant descriptions, property deed descriptions, and property survey plats illustrate the best witness to the position of the county boundary line starting at the corner of Greene, Lenoir, and Wayne County on Bear Creek northeasterly to the south of Wheat Swamp following Wheat Swamp until it departs in a northeasterly direction toward Contentnea Creek following Contentnea Creek until it connects with Little Contentnea Creek also known as the county corner of Greene, Lenoir and Pitt County, and be designated County Boundary Line. After adoption by both counties, NC Geodetic Survey will place monuments at various locations to preserve the actions of the report and research. There are no residences, schools, or religious facilities located along the descriptive county line that would be impacted. The county GIS Coordinator/Planner recommends adopting the Report of Research Findings as presented by NC Geodetic Survey and the proposed locations of the Greene/Lenoir county boundary line. The Board is requested to officially approve the locations of the common county boundary line between Greene County and Lenoir County, North Carolina, as established by North Carolina Geodetic Survey, NC Department of Public Safety. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 3 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 4 was a Resolution Approving Purchase Order for L3 Mobile Vision, Inc.: \$9,480. Sheriff Ingram stated the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office has received its annual allocation of funds from the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$11,952. We intend to expel all of the JAG funds to purchase four in-car video cameras at a cost of \$21,432. The cost of each L3 camera is \$5,333. The remainder of the purchase cost will come from Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds in the amount of \$9,480. The entire purchase of all of the cameras has been provided by JAG funds and Drug Funds. The City of Kinston Police Department administered the grant and they will be directly invoiced for \$11,952. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 5 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health (WIC) \$13,676. Increase. Joey Huff, Health Director, stated the purpose of this amendment is to increase state funds in the WIC program. As it stands we have an in-house staff member to fill the position and implement the program. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution Approving Service Contract between Lenoir County Transit and Lenoir County Council on Aging. Angie Green, Transit Director, stated Lenoir County Council on Aging provides quality community-based services for the elderly population of Eastern Carolina.

They offer a wide range of services such as health screenings, health and fitness services, legal services, transportation, and in-home aide services to name a few. They also offer congregate nutrition and home delivered meals along with a variety of activities that seniors can participate in daily. They assist our elderly citizens of Lenoir County in many areas. Lenoir County Transit provides transportation to the Lenoir County Council on Aging clients who do not have a means of transportation. This contract will enable Lenoir County Council on Aging to receive reimbursement from the Division of Aging and Adult Services for transportation provided to their clients under the Home and Community Care Block Grant. Lenoir County Transit is asking the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners approval of a service contract with Lenoir County Transit to provide transportation services to Lenoir County Council on Aging clients. Prior to FY16-17, the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services had not required Lenoir County Council on Aging to have a service contract with Lenoir County Transit to provide transportation to Lenoir County Council on Aging Clients. It is now being required by the Division to have a service contract in place to provide transportation to Lenoir County Council on Aging clients. 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 Lenoir County Transit System Fare Decrease. Angie Green, Transit Director, stated as of April 1, 2012, Lenoir County Transit ticket fares for Rural General Public Transportation (RGPT) and Employment (EMP) were increased from \$4.00 to \$6.00. Elderly Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (EDTAP) fares increased from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per trip due to an increase in fuel cost. Since then, the cost of fuel has decreased, however; the price of ticket fares has remained the same. The current ticket fare of \$6.00 per trip is potentially causing undue hardship on Lenoir County citizens needing transportation, making them unable to afford transportation to and from work, school, medical appointments, etc. The decrease in ticket fares will make Lenoir County Transportation services more affordable to Lenoir County citizens. Lenoir County Transit is requesting Lenoir County Board of Commissioners approve the following changes: decrease RGPT and EMPL fares from \$6.00 to \$5.00, decrease EDTAP fares from \$4.00 to \$3.00, discontinue the “Buy Eight Tickets, Get Two Free” Promotion. Decreasing fares would also impact medical appointments to and from Greenville. These fares would decrease from \$24.00 to \$20.00 roundtrip. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Mr. Best asked if the public would be notified of this change. Ms. Greene replied yes, it will be posted on Transit’s Facebook page and they will place an ad in the Kinston Free Press.

Item No. 8 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Emergency Telephone: \$4,366. Decrease. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated the purpose of this amendment is to decrease the 911 emergency telephone fund budget and capital reserve budget by \$4,366. We received an estimate before the budget was created and advised they would give the final estimate sometime in the month of June. This decrease will align our revenues and expenditures with the actual revenues received during the year. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Process Funds: \$28,303.75. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated the purpose of this amendment is to bring forward unexpected grant funds from the EMPG supplemental grant funds for fiscal years 2008-2009 and through 2015-2016. This grant was received by EMS and they will use it to support salaries and other supplies they will need to purchase. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Process Funds: \$41,700. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated the purpose of this amendment is to increase revenues and expenditures for fiscal year 2015-2016 to cover anticipated receipts and disbursements. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Board of Elections: \$8,960: Increase. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated this was a grant received late last fiscal year, therefore; we have to do a budget amendment to report the revenues and expenditures in the previous fiscal year. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Board of Elections: \$8,960: Increase. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated the purpose of this amendment is to grant HAVA funds applied for and received from the State Board of Elections to purchase curbside assistance for handicap voters. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Fiscal Year 16-17 Blanket Purchase Orders: \$77,946. Tracy Chestnutt, Finance Director, stated each year the Board of Elections issues purchase orders to various vendors for supplies and services needed to operate the department. All purchases \$100 and greater require the issuance of a purchase order. Purchases of \$2,500 and greater require the Board's approval. Approval of this resolution will allow encumbrance of funds approved in the FY16-17 budget and the eventual payment of services as billed. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 14 was a Resolution Authorizing a Four (4) Year Lease with Dell computer Corporation, Inc.: \$45,000 Per Year. Joey Bryan, Assistant County Manager, stated on April 21, 2008, the Lenoir County Commissioners approved a 4 year Technology Refresh Program that allowed Lenoir County to lease its desktop units. The program has been very effective in keeping desktop pc's operating in an ever-changing environment. This also allows us to have all of the operating costs covered under warranty for the entire 4 years. We are returning the machines we leased back in 2012 as per the lease agreement. This lease will replace those machines and allow us to have new leased machines with warranty coverage for the entire lease. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 15 was a Resolution Authorizing Purchase of a Caterpillar D6T XL Dozer for use at the landfill: Gregory Poole (Washington, NC): Not to exceed \$328,000 off State Term Contract 760H. Joey Bryan, Assistant County Manager, stated The Lenoir County Landfill operates an MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) Transfer Station and a C & D (Construction and Demolition) cell. The Board had already approved this item at the March 7, 2016, meeting; however, the amount was set not to exceed \$325,000. The actual quoted price for the new D6T XL is \$327,763.28. Again due to the estimates and reimbursements the actual amount is now not to exceed \$328,000. We will be utilizing the leasing option with Caterpillar Financial Services with an interest rate of 3.2% up to 84 months. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 15 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 16 was a Resolution Approving the Purchase of an Unmanned Aerial System: Benchmark Tool and Supply, Inc.: \$18,318.30. Roger Dail, EMS Director, stated unmanned aerial system is commonly referred to as a drone. The use of drones for public safety is numerous and is increasing rapidly. Drones not only provide added protection to the citizens but to our first responders as well. Over the past year, Lenoir County Emergency Services has partnered with the Sheriff's Office and the City of Kinston Fire and Police Divisions. We have been discussing the potential benefits and issues associated with the governmental use of drones. The implementations for drone usage are for the betterment of the citizens of Lenoir County and the City of Kinston. During this time eleven individuals have been taking an Unmanned Aircraft Systems class at Lenoir Community College. Lenoir County Emergency Services, Emergency Management Division and the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office are requesting approval to purchase an unmanned aerial system. The purchase price will be evenly divided among three (3) departments: Emergency Services, Sheriff's Office, and the Kinston Police Department. This drone, the Matrice 100, will have the capability of taking photos through a zomax x3 camera and a 640 resolution FLIR thermal imagery camera, in real time, with a flight time of thirty minutes with dual batteries attached. Following FAA rules and regulations the drone will only fly when the laws allow it to do so. The pilots in command of this drone will follow the rules and regulations determined by the FAA. After examining many drone platforms, the Matrice 100 with Camera and FLIR options was determined to best benefit the citizens of Lenoir County and City of Kinston. The Emergency Services portion will come from EMPG supplemental grant and the Sheriff's office portion will come from Federal drug assets forfeitures. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 16 was approved with one (1) descending vote from Mr. Rouse.

Mr. Rouse asked what type of use the drone will be used for. Mr. Dail replied for EMS it will be used for search and rescue, damage assessment, the Fire Department will use it when there are grass and root fires, and it will be used to detect hot spots. Sheriff Ingram stated the Sheriff's Department will use it to perform search and rescue missions. Mr. Rouse asked the physical size of the drone. Mr. Dail replied it's not that big and it can't be over 65 pounds. Mr. Rouse asked was there a drop in the price because of the size of the equipment. Mr. Dail replied yes, and this particular drone was one of the cheapest and the first one they look at was priced at \$65,000. Ms. Sutton asked where the drone would be kept. Mr. Dail replied it would be housed at the Emergency Service Office.

Mr. Rouse asked who determines when the drone gets deployed. Mr. Dail replied they will as a team. Mr. Rouse asked if they had a standard operating procedure in place. Mr. Dail replied they are writing one. Mr. Rouse stated he can see the public having issues and major concerns regarding privacy. Sheriff Ingram stated if they were conducting a search and rescue mission and came upon something illegal they would get a search warrant first, they will not be using the drone for that purpose. Mr. Rouse asked if the drone will be mission specific. Sheriff Ingram replied yes. Mr. Rouse asked will the Board have to approve the standard operating procedure. Mr. Dail replied no.

Item No. 17 was a Resolution Approving the Purchase of Two (2) 2017 Ford F250 4x4 Trucks: Piedmont Truck Center, Inc.: \$68,268. Jerri King, EMS Assistant Director, stated the EMS Commanders and Captains are based out of the main EMS Station located at 2404 North Queen Street in Kinston. As Shift Administrators', they are required to provide any necessary assistance to all EMS personnel stationed throughout Lenoir County. They respond to multiple calls during each shift, with the majority of those calls being driven emergency traffic, lights and siren. As a result of their job responsibilities, the EMS Commanders put a lot of wear on their vehicles, not only responding to calls for service/assistance but also in the general performance of their duties. These vehicles are due for replacement and as part of our vehicle replacement rotation. Staff recommends that the County utilize a State Contract with the vendor, Piedmont Truck Center, Inc. with a purchase price of \$34,134 per vehicle for a total purchase price of \$68,268. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 17 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 18 was a Resolution Approving the Remount of a 2007 Ford E450 Wheeled Coach Ambulance Box: select Custom Apparatus: \$83,068.45. Jerri King, EMS Assistant Director, stated the Lenoir County Emergency Services Department (EMS) maintains a fleet of twelve (12) ambulances. Due to budget constraints in recent years, the department has not been able to replace aging ambulances on a regular basis. In FY09-10, two (2) units were replaced. In FY10-11, no units were replaced. In FY11-12, one (1) box was remounted on new chassis. In FY12-13, no units were replaced. In FY13-14, one (1) box was remounted on a new chassis. In FY14-15, two (2) boxes were remounted onto new chassis, and one (1) used ambulance was purchased to replace a unit that was taken out of service in 2013, but was never replaced. In FY15-16, two (2) boxes were remounted onto new chassis, keeping our fleet total at twelve (12). For the current fiscal year, funds were budgeted for the remount of two- (2) boxes onto new chassis. Ms King stated they are recommending remounting the box on a 2007 Ford E450 with 232,974 miles on a new chassis during this fiscal year. Staff feels that remounting the box of this truck onto a new 2017 Ford V-10 gas chassis will be the best course of action for additional unit replacement. This 2007 Ford is no longer fit for duty and has been taken out of services due to mechanical issues at the recommendation of our primary mechanic. This ambulances box requires upgrades due to its age and outdated equipment. A new truck now costs \$150,000 to \$175,000, with a remount, including upgrades to the box, costing approximately \$83,068.45. Approval of this purchase will allow for the encumbrance of funds and payment to the vendor upon delivery of the ambulance. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 18 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 19 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. Ms. Brown stated since this was the first appearance no action is required at this time.

Item No. 20 was items from County Manager. Mr. Jarman stated the county has county-owned property listed for sale. Both properties have been before this Board and we asked you to turn it down. At this time we are asking the Board to approve them both and get them back on the tax books. The first property is on Herbert Drive, which is a single wide mobile home that is in need of some repairs. The previous bid received was \$2,000 now the bid is \$4,000. The other property is a vacant lot on Randolph Farrow Road we've had it for quite some time and we have not had any bids. We received in the past a bid for \$500, and this current bid is \$600. We are recommending that this Board accept both bids at this time. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 20 was unanimously approved.

Mr. Jarman stated a voting delegate is needed from this Board for the NCACC upcoming annual conference held August 11-14. Mr. Hill recommended Ms. Jackie Brown, Vice-Chairman to be the voting delegate for the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners. Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Mr. Best, Ms. Brown was selected to be the voting delegate for the Board. Mr. Jarman stated the regular inspections and transportation reports are included.

Mr. Rouse stated on tomorrow July 19th from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. the NC Department of Transportation will have a meeting at the Global TransPark Center of Excellence regarding the proposed extension of C.F. Harvey Parkway. They have invited all local officials to attend. There will be a meeting for the public to attend from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public of the project and to gather input.

Mr. Hill stated he plans to attend because it is a very important meeting. It would be a good idea for some of the Board members to attend the evening meeting as well to interact with the citizens that may have some concerns in that area. Mr. Hill stated the RPO meeting will take place Thursday, July 21st at 9:30 a.m. at the new LaGrange Community Center. This will be a very important meeting. Based on the information received there is only one section that will possibly have enough votes to be funded and that's Section B of the Hwy 70 bypass. Mr. Hill stated if he is correct there is a section that scored high enough that if they have enough of the people that vote on the RPO it could be funded in the new construction part of the Hwy 70 bypass. Also, it could be put in a situation where the permitting process could be moved forward if it scores high enough. Mr. Rouse stated each time they bring it back the state scores a little higher. It will become a situation where it going to be done regardless. The question is if we want it to score and do it, or do we want to use the funds for a different project and let the state take care of it. Mr. Daughety stated this is a unique window and the price tag for that section of the new construction is so high that if you don't score high this year we may not ever get to where there is that much money in the pool. Mr. Hill stated there will be local business impacted by the bypass. This is one of those situations where we know it's coming. However, with what's occurred on the bypass west of us and the distance from Wayne County, and Goldsboro, if we have the shallow bypass within a mile and a half range we can still be a destination spot coming down 70 if we stayed close enough. Mr. Daughety stated even more important, now with the future of the new interstate, the ramifications benefit our economic development viewpoint.

Mr. Hill stated he hopes all of our people as well as those along the region will vote for it and get the local points. The reality is, as much as we want to be relaxed, we are at a point now where we have to take advantage of it, or we can be left out of the equation. While there may be some short-term damage, locally there may be some long-term benefits for manufacturing and delivering the products. I hope everyone realizes that this is a very important vote as well as the points being important.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By,

Vickie F. King
Clerk to the Board

Joey R. Bryan
Assistant County Manager