

**MINUTES**

**LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**July 20, 2015**

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, July 20, 2015, 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 Rouse Sutton.

Members Absent: None

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

Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m. I will like to make brief remarks and then have a moment of silence. I like to give condolence to our attorney Bob Griffin who lost his father. I'm sure it's been a very difficult loss. Bob's father was our long time attorney for the Board and we appreciate you sharing him with the community. His leadership brought us through some very difficult issues within the community. He stood for integrity, the law, and family which made our community a better place just by him being here. We will keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. At this time we will observe a moment of silence followed by the invocation.

Ms. Brown offered the Invocation and Eric Rouse led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Virgil Byrd stated I am here to defuse this witch hunt that is going on throughout our country dealing with confederate flags in the United States of America. Back in the late 80's the Sons of Confederate Veterans State Division realized we needed to do something for North Carolina troops that served. It was known we lost more than any other state and we did not have anything to show other than a few monuments throughout the state. We had some ideas and the date and significance of March 4th came up. March 1861 is when the very first confederate flag came out and March 1865 was the date the last flag came out. We approached Governor Jim Martin and he agreed to proclaim it as being a flag day. We flew the flag over the Capital during his administration and through some of Governor Hunt's administration.

I know there has been a lot going on since the shooting in Charleston, South Carolina and it's despicable what happened and I can't imagine what their families are going through. The media has taken a picture of a sick young man holding a battle flag which I think is political gain and trying to turn this into something it is not.

Just this past week another very sick human being went on our military installation and shot four marines and one sailor. His picture was posted with the flag of our country and the State of Tennessee. Are we going to go after everything in Tennessee and the United States of America? I think we need to take a big breath and calm down and realize that March 4th was to actually honor our confederate soldiers.

Black confederate soldiers were paid the exact same pay as their white counter parts. There were somewhere between 30,000 and 40,000 blacks who served in the confederate army. In southern Louisiana there were two full regiments of free blacks outfitted with their entire equipment, uniforms, and everything tied to fighting for the confederacies.

James Mumford stated we the Kinston- Lenoir County branch of the NAACP call on people of conscience and of all faiths to pray for justice and love and against the demonizing forces of racism. We challenge policies that have an unequal impact on African-Americans and other minorities such as voter suppression and the blunt funding cuts to public education. Our position has always been that the Confederate war flag and any other flag that symbolizes the Confederacy belongs in a museum and not over or on our local government properties. It is disrespectful to the minority community as taxpaying citizens. To the African-American and minority community it is a symbol of terror, hatred and treason to America's ideal.

We understand for some the flag symbolizes the civil war and the courageous, honorable soldiers that gave their lives. However, it overwhelmingly represents a shamefully dark past in our nation's history. Our position is that not only should the flag not be raised once a year on March 4<sup>th</sup> but we must work together to dismantle racism and structural systems of oppression throughout Lenoir County. As Commissioner Daughety indicated in a recent article, we deal with poverty, literacy, unemployment, and inequality in the criminal system which research shows affect unwed mothers, and a whole host of things that disenfranchise our local minority community. Dealing with systematic racism today is dealing with the quote "larger problem". Our society's commitment to address racism cannot stop with the removal or denial of symbols. However, it must also include opening the path to upward social mobility for those who are trapped at the bottom due to blocked opportunities and the hoarding of economic resources by a small minority. This is seen on Herritage Street and in the Mitchell Town Preservation Project where gentrification is being carried out negatively affecting minority tenants and home owners. Remove the Kinston Hanging Sign located in East Kinston right across the street from our jailhouse which paints a terrorizing picture of those in opposition of the confederacy being hung in the minds of minority as they walk by it. The forced closure of African Americans school and businesses has to stop. Instead, equity in both resources and incentives should be ethnic inclusive to stem growth in all our local communities. Politicians don't get a pass on addressing systemic policy racism simply because of a somewhat reluctant move to address the removal of the flag in the wake of the Charleston 9 Massacre. Republican Governor Nikki Haley in SC showed courage in signing of the bill that removed the flag. Republican Representative Jenny Home gave an emotional speech on the House floor in favor of removing the flag.

Republican Governor Pat McCrory has asked the state legislature wanting the North Carolina General Assembly to pass a law that would discontinue the use of the Confederate flag on specialty license plates.

While the NAACP supports the efforts previously mentioned, the question today for our local elected officials is how to move forward in a way that deliberately promotes, not just verbalizes, diversity that produces policies that reflect tolerance and acceptance of all ethnicities, their rights as taxpaying citizens, and the acceptance of their religious beliefs. Let's move our city and our county out of the dreadful "segregated pit" it's in and into the 21st century where we socially accept all people because it's good for our local economy. The Bible speaks to having compassion for others through Christ-like principals that should consciously convict us all. Instructing each of us "to love our neighbors as ourselves" and to "do to others as you would want them to do to you." We need to address systematic structural racism which denies our local minority community equal protection under the law and their basic rights as citizens, not a racist flag.

Todd Edwards stated I agree with what Mr. Mumford said, we don't need to be flying the battle flag. From what I understand we are not flying the battle flag we are flying this one (he presented a flag to the audience). This is the first national flag in the confederacy, the flag that my great grandfather fought and bled for. A lot of you see a black man standing in front of you and some of you see somebody you have no idea what race I am. My great grandfather who fought and died for this flag was a black man named Jonas Williams and he knew racism and what it was about. He sued the Onslow County Government to make sure that my grandfather could be educated in the home during the separate but equal times when he was not allowed to attend public schools. I was able to attend public schools, but I have always been just a little bit too black for some white folks and a little bit too white for some black folks. I will tell you this, I am neither black or white I am a human. This is a human race and this is not a flag of depression, this is a flag that my great grandfather fought for. He appears on a roll of Southern Confederate Veterans, he drew a pension and my great grandmother continued to draw his pension after his death. On the 1890 census my grandfather was listed as black and on the 1900 census only after he died we suddenly became black, and now are considered Mulatto, a mixed race.

In my opinion the way that racism ends is that we go forward together as brothers and sisters and we quit harping on how our ancestors were mistreated or not mistreated. My great grandfather got a raw deal he fought for the confederacy. I have another ancestor and his name was Light Born Basden a Native American. If you don't think the Cherokees got a raw deal they did but you know what they fought for the confederacy as well as many other nations.

David Bell stated I would like to mention a quote from the original designer of the confederate flag W. T. Thompson and said he called it "the white man's flag" and said it symbolized the supremacy of the white man over the inferior or colored race, and that sounds like hate to me. Commissioner J. Mac Daughety stated in an article he is in agreement with that, but then he mentioned unwed mothers and a lot of other things that were in the exclusion report. When he said he supports the flag, the unwed mothers, it made me feel like he was talking about black baby mothers at Social Services looking for handouts. Mr. Reuben Davis said on WITN and I quote "just because something happened 150 years ago doesn't make it wrong or right". Mr. Bell stated well its wrong sir.

Mr. Hill asked Mr. Bell to address the total Board and not individual members.

Mr. Bell stated if I could address the whole Board I would like to say I am aware of what you said and this is my inference on it as far as the total Board goes. There was never a statement from the African-American county commissioners. Mr. Hill, you never stated what side you were on but I would like to know that because you did say to me at a Race Relations conference that Voter ID was a good thing, and you are suppose to be a democrat. I will be brief because there is no positive association of African-Americans with the confederate flag. It's not really about the flag, it's about the systematic racism and exclusion behind the flag and how Herritage Street has a lot of confederate things on it and no black businesses. When black people see Herritage Street they do not want to visit there. It is almost segregation by default. I see enough confederate business going on down town. I see all white organizations that I see as the KKK, they just don't use that name anymore. They are disguising themselves by other names so they can get tax payers dollars and come to the Board and ask for them money. Chamber of Commerce, Sons of the Confederate, Lions Club, Rotary Club, Kinston Visitor Center and CSS Neuse group, all of those are white organizations. If any members of this Board are a part of all white organizations please let us know so we can know where you stand.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: June 15, 2015.
2. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Emergency Telephone System Fund:  
Finance/Emergency Telephone System: (\$2,048). Decrease.
3. Resolution Approving Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein.

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

**BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:**

Mr. Hill stated we would like a make a change in the order of the agenda by moving item numbers 7, 8, & 9 and I ask that Mr. Joey Huff to come to the podium at this time.

Item No. 7 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: \$16,938. Increase. Joey Huff, Health Director, stated this is part of the Medicaid program for the Child Coordination for Children's budget and is based on the increase in caseloads for fiscal year 2015-2016. This is a Medicaid funded program and the budget figures we were given in preparation for our July 1<sup>st</sup> budget which has been amended by the State of North Carolina because of anticipated additional revenue for this current fiscal year. This pertains to item numbers 7 and 9. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 8 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: \$20,000. Increase. Joey Huff, Health Director, stated this increase will enhance public health emergency preparedness planning and operational readiness for the Ebola Virus Disease.

Each county in North Carolina received \$20,000 for health departments who are involved in the monitoring of the individuals who have been to West Africa specifically to the countries Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

If the Board recalls I met with you earlier last year during the outbreak of the Ebola infection. There are continued to be sporadic cases in Western Africa. When the outbreak was announced in March 2014 and as of June 2015 globally there has been excess of 27,000 cases, 11,000 deaths and 15 patients in the United States have been diagnosis and or treated with Ebola. A portion of our activity in public health is to identify those who have traveled from those countries. Once back in North Carolina the health departments have to assess their risk of exposure and determine the level of monitoring required for a period of 21 days. As of today, 672 individuals has been monitored at some level by health departments in North Carolina.

It's fortunate that we have not been involved in that particular activity, but we do have this funding available as the cases of Ebola continue. In the event we were to have someone come to Lenoir County that has been traveling to the western part of Africa and exposed to Ebola then we would have some funds available to assist with the expenses of a 21 day monitoring or survey. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 9 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: \$50,462. Increase. Joey Huff, Health Director, stated this increase is to the Pregnancy Care Management's budget is based on caseloads increasing for fiscal year 2015-2016. Upon a motion by Ms. Davis and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No 9 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 4 was a Resolution of support for the Military Corridor Transportation Improvement Act of 2015, and calling upon the North Carolina Department of Transportation to allocate priority funding to US 70 improvements in advance of this designation. Commissioners Eric Rouse read a statement from J. Kevin Lacy which said when upgrading a road to an interstate highway is expensive and usually doesn't provide additional capacity. However, I feel different about us Hwy 70 because there are so many side streets interfering with the traffic flows. Interstates provide an economic benefit especially when industries and companies are deciding on location/benefits. An Interstate highway is a federal highway decision not a state or local political decision. Some companies might make a location decision based on the quality of the interconnectivity of transportation and the future of the corridor. The Highway 70 corridor has many good features with military installation, ports, and hospitals. It also has a lot of surface streets which happen to slow the traffic. Over the past several years there has been a lot of attention to reduce the number of surface street miles and put more miles into a freeway standard highway. Mr. Rouse read the Resolution. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, item No. 4 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 5 was a Resolution approving the purchase of software service agreement with Cox & Company in the amount of \$40,000 per year. Darrell Parrish, Tax Administrator, stated the Tax Department has had three companies give presentations on their tax software. Two of the products are window based software systems which would be a major change for our staff and the cost of both systems is very expensive. ONETax, is very similar to the Bormuth system, as it is an AS400 system making the cost a lot more reasonable. Lenoir County Tax Department has been using the Bormuth tax software for approximately 25 years.

The owner of the system, Al Bormuth has not been marketing his software for several years which has caused the number of counties utilizing the software to decrease. The Tax Department would be in a precarious situation if something were to happen to Mr. Bormuth.

Ms. Brown asked if the \$40,000.00 was for a five year period or was it just for the Resolution?

Mr. Parrish replied it was for the entire five year period. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, item No. 5 was approved with one dissenting vote by Mr. Rouse. Called to Question

Item No. 6 was a Resolution approving the purchase of aerial imagery from Pictometry, Inc. in the amount of \$40,211.90. Darrell Parrish, Tax Administrator, stated in looking for ways to improve the upcoming 2017 revaluation process, the Tax Department looked at several options for obtaining photographs of improved properties that would enhance the accuracy of our data. Pictometry's patented oblique imagery process allows improved parcels to be viewed from all sides and measurements to be made of any buildings or improvements. This process will also allow our appraisers to review properties at their desks and see if any additions have been added that are not currently reflected in the tax records.

Mr. Rouse asked Mr. Parrish what was the county currently using?

Mr. Parrish replied we have photos that were taken in 2012 and anything that was built since then we don't have pictures.

Mr. Rouse asked does this work like Google Earth?

Mr. Parrish replied yes pretty much so.

Mr. Rouse asked can we use Google Earth in place of Pictometry?

Mr. Parrish replied he could not measure anything with Google Earth.

Mr. Rouse stated he would be glad to show Mr. Parrish how to.

Mr. Parrish stated he was unaware that Google Earth was capable of doing that.

Mr. Rouse made a motion to table item number 6 until further research.

Mr. Hill stated we had a motion and a second, and now we have a motion to table.

Mr. Griffin stated the motion to table has priority at this point, it will have to have a second or it will die if it lacks a second.

Mr. Daughety asked Mr. Rouse what was the purpose or reasoning for tabling item number 6?

Mr. Rouse replied, if it's a simple matter of pulling measurements and getting overviews of properties, you can do that with Google Earth very simply. I use it all the time when looking at property and measuring the distance and I found it to be very accurate. I think it is something we need to look into before we spend this type of money.

Mr. Jarman stated I am ok with it being tabled to get a definitive answer, however, I think Joey Bryan can address it with the specific of the quality of photography, pixels and degree of measurements.

Mr. Bryan stated the County has to use state plain coordinate files. You are right, Google is fine, however it does not interface with our GIS software. The sitting has to be flown at a certain pixel ratio to interface with the county along with the city that must be flown with our ratio. With Pictometry when they are flying over areas they use LIDAR which is a more sophisticated system that will allow the county to receive updated pictures, and measurements for several different views in our GIS system.

Mr. Daughety asked if Pictometry would be fixed photographs or real time data?

Mr. Parrish replied Pictometry's proposal is to fly in 2016 or whenever the purchase is approved.

Mr. Daughety stated you both just said that this will allow your inspectors or tax assessors to be able to sit in their office and not have to drive so many miles, are you projecting a cost savings because of this in terms of vehicle mileage and gas, and do you have a estimate of your annual vehicle costs savings?

Mr. Parrish replied yes, they will be able to sit at their desk and take pictures instead of riding around town taking pictures, and the cost should be about \$5,000 a year between the two budgets for vehicle maintenance. As for the cost of gas I am not sure, but it should save tremendously, because the appraisers won't be riding every road stopping and starting.

Mr. Rouse stated you could still use Google for the measurements because they have new software.

Mr. Jarman stated please don't think that Pictometry is the only measurements out there. But when building permits come in we send someone out there to measure the properties. When they are looking at these and doing comparisons if there is something new they will see that and pick that up and they may get some measurements. In this situation someone is still going to knock on the door and do measurements.

Mr. Rouse said if they are still going to sit in their office and do this, will that eliminate an office job since we don't have to have someone out in the field anymore?

Mr. Parrish replied I don't have any plans for that right now we will need to get this and see how it works.

Mr. Daughety asked if this was time sensitive?

Mr. Parrish replied the earlier we commit to this and let the company know the earlier they will get it on their schedule to fly and the earlier we will get the product and use it.

Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Daughety item number 6 was tabled until further discussion. Called to Question

Daughety yes, Best no, Davis no, Hill yes, Brown no, Sutton yes, Rouse yes

Item No. 10 was a Resolution authorizing the issuance of blanket purchase orders to the following companies for FY 15-16 in the amount of \$92,646. Dana King, Board of Elections Director, stated this Resolution will allow the encumbrance of funds approved in the FY 15-16 budget and the eventual payment for services billed. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 11 was a Resolution authorizing the issuance of a purchase order to DLL Public Finance for the first year of the three year lease agreement in the amount of \$98,633.05. Joey Bryan, MIS Director, stated approval of this purchase order will allow MIS to purchase a new server farm and backup system. Everyone with the exception of the Tax Department operates on this server we are asking the Board to replace this to enable us to have a back-up system and hot site like we did for the 911 system. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No 11 was unanimously approved. Called to Question

Item No.12 was a Resolution authorizing the approval of utility easement to Duke Energy Progress. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated Lenoir County received notification from a representative of Duke Energy Progress in March 2015. They were requesting permission to erect electrical power lines along the highway right-of-way of Hwy 258 South across flood buy-out property owned by Lenoir County. Contact was made with the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management in Raleigh to determine if formal approval from FEMA Region IV was necessary for this project. It was determined since nothing was to touch the property physically, formal approval was not required. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No 12 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 13 was a Resolution declaring property as surplus and authorizing the sale of surplus property by auction. Martha Martin, Finance Officer, stated Lenoir County has acquired various properties over a period of time mainly through tax foreclosures. Some of these properties have structures on them and some are on vacant lots. These properties add no value to the operations of the county and the sale will return them to private owners and add them once again to the tax rolls. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 13 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 14 was a Resolution authorizing asbestos abatement by Enviro Assessments East, Inc in a county owned building on 115 W. Bright Street in the amount of \$8,925. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated Lenoir County owns a building located at 115 W. Bright Street that was inspected for asbestos by OSHA in 2012. Ms. Martin stated that Mike Wiggings could explain further. Mike Wiggings, Maintenance Director, stated back in 2012 when OSHA tested the building for asbestos the testing came back positive. Due to structural and mold issues it is recommended the building be torn down. We solicited a bid from Enviro Assessments East, Inc. of Dover, NC who is the only local licensed asbestos abatement contractor. Future plans are to make the land a parking lot for DSS. Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by MS. Sutton, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 15 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Non-Departmental: in the amount of \$13,580. Increase. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated this budget ordinance amendment is to appropriate additional property tax revenue received by the County Tax Services, Inc. The County contracted with County Tax Services, Inc. in May of 2010 to conduct the audit.

County Tax Services, Inc. receives a 30% commission on all business/personal property discoveries found as a result of the audit. The County pays this commission only after the taxpayer pays the discovery tax bill. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 15 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 16 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Process funds: in the amount of \$120,000. Increase. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated this budget ordinance amendment is to set up funds from the NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (DJJDP). This grant was previously awarded in November and would roll forward into the next fiscal year, but it is now being awarded based on the county's fiscal year. These funds are to cover the three county region of the 8<sup>th</sup> judicial district, Wayne, Green and Lenoir clients. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Davis, Item No 16 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 17 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Fire District: Fire Protection: in the amount of \$271,450. Increase. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated this budget ordinance amendment is to appropriate funds to cover estimated revenues and expenditures for all fire districts for the remainder of fiscal year 14-15. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Best, Item No 17 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 18 was a Resolution approving purchase of Munis Financial, Payroll, and HR Management Software with Tyler Technologies in the amount of \$365,270. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated the Lenoir County Finance Department has utilized Logics Financial Software since 1992. In 2005, an upgrade to a Microsoft windows based system was purchased from Logics, along with a budget preparation module. The payroll module was not upgraded and the fixed asset module is no longer supported. Lenoir County MIS and the Finance Department have investigated several software options and feel that Tyler Technologies provides the best products and support to meet the current and future needs of the county. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 18 was approved with one dissenting vote by Mr. Rouse. Called to Question

Mr. Best stated during the NACO Conference he met the representatives with Tyler Technologies and the gentlemen were very excited about the potential possibility of selling their products and receiving a contract with Lenoir County. Mr. Best stated the representative from Tyler Technologies was very pleased with Mike Jarman and Joey Bryan.

Item No. 19 was a Resolution approving/authorizing execution of FY 15-16 insurance policies with WA Moore Company, Inc. and Discovery Insurance Co in the amount of \$646,875. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated this current fiscal year will be the thirteenth in which the County contracted out all of the insurance policies to local agents. In the past, part of the insurance coverage was taken through local agents and part was through the NCACC/NC Risk Management Pool. Administration recommends we continue with the local companies. For FY15-16, the County increased coverage on buildings by 3.0%, maintained auto liability deductible at \$5,000 due to recent poor claims history, experienced premium increase for excess workers compensation stop-loss policy, experienced increase in law enforcement liability, maintained deductible on property coverage at \$10,000 to minimize premium increase, and once again contracted with Discovery Insurance to handle compliance with mandated Medicare Secondary Payer reporting requirements.

The JT Sutton Insurance Agency merged with WA Moore Company, Inc., on May 1, 2007; therefore, coverage previously provided by JT Sutton on auto, property, crime, general liability, and professional liability is now provided by WA Moore Company, Inc. Administration is recommending continuation of insurance coverage on County properties with WA Moore Company, Inc. for FY15-16. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 19 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No 20 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General/Employee Insurance/Vehicle Replace/Federally Seized Property Controlled Substance/School Capital: Finance: \$976,789. Increase. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated this amendment is to adjust budgeted revenue and expenditures to more accurately reflect actual revenues and expenditures for eleven (11) months of FY 14-15. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No 20 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 21 was a Resolution approving appointments of citizens to boards, commissions, etc. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 21 was unanimously approved for E. Randolph Smith's appointment to the Board of Equalization and Review. Since this was the first appearance for Dr. Brantley Briley, Harrison Keith Montgomery, L. Bruce Parsons with Eastern Carolina Workforce Development and Carolyn J. Bias with LC Nursing Home & Adult Care no action is required at this time.

Mr. Hill reminded the public to visit the county's website and view the current vacancies. That is one of the reasons we have it listed for thirty (30) days, to give citizens the opportunity to be involved with the local advisory boards.

**CURRENT VACANCIES: Lenoir County Health Board – (1) Optometrist, (1) Member, Equalization & Review (1), Lenoir County Parks & Recreation (1).**

Item No. 22 were items from the County Manager, Mike Jarman. Mr. Jarman stated I have a few items listed for discussion. We have property as surplus at 703 East Washington Street, the current bid is \$1,500.00 and I am going to recommend that you decline that bid. I have not been on the inside but I have been by the property. I think we can possibly get a little more. The taxes owed and the foreclosure amount comes closer to \$6,500.00 and I don't know if we will get that amount but I will recommend you decline the current bid. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughtey, Item No. 22 703 East Washington Street property was unanimously approved. Common Consent

The next item on my list is regarding the designation of a voting delegate at the NCACC Annual Conference. The conference is coming up and the Board needs to designate a voting delegate. You can either take action now or be prepared to take action by the August 7<sup>th</sup> deadline. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Davis, Commissioner Jackie Brown was nominated as voting delegate for the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners. Common Consent

The next item on my list is also requiring action from the Commissioners by the NCACC. We are in District 3 and the position rotates between each district as who will be the district director. Lenoir County is next in line to have the District 3 position and we need to designate someone to fill this position as District 3 Director.

Mr. Hill recommended Ms. Linda Sutton for the District 3 Director's position. Ms. Sutton stated she would love to. However, with her current circumstances she would hate to commit to the responsibilities of that position right now.

Mr. Hill recommended Mr. Rouse for the position of District 3 Director of the NCACC. Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Ms. Sutton, Eric Rouse was selected as District 3 Director.

Mr. Jarman stated the only other thing I have are the regular Inspections and Permit Reports for June and July, and the CDBG Quarterly progress reports which are self explanatory.

Mr. Rouse stated he received a letter with the preliminary draft bill which is modeled after a similar bill passed in 2009 for a crossing in Craven County from State of North Carolina DOT regarding the safety issues of several Contentnea Savannah school buses presented traveling on Highway 11 near railroad crossing. The General Assembly approved an act to allow school buses and activity buses to cross certain railroad grade crossings without first stopping which applies to Lenoir County only. The two locations are near the Contentnea Savannah School. One railroad crossing is located on NC11 and the other Ferrell Road. I spoke with John Bell and Louis Pate and they both feel everything looks favorable. This will increase the safety for the children.

Mr. Hill stated that is the intersection where the buses make the right turn and they are hanging out into the highway (Highway 11).

Mr. Rouse stated for RPO news, Rob Will took a new job elsewhere and Patrick Flannigan is his replacement, so they are going through a transition period.

The Queen Street bridge project has been delayed again and I don't know the expected date for closure.

Smithfield Way has been paved by Barrus Construction. They are waiting on striping to finish everything off and hopefully we will be using it soon. Barrus Construction has done a lot of projects with the state and has contracted with Lenoir County.

Castle Oaks Subdivision has been completely paved out and this is the first paving they have had and they are very happy.

The construction has started on the parking lot at Woodington School renovation/reorganization and parents are very happy. They said a posting was made on Facebook and within twenty minutes the parking lot looked like school was in session.

Mr. Rouse stated a lot of people have asked about Banks School Road being in terrible shape. They are getting a lot of heavy traffic from industry and it is scheduled to be paved next year.

Ms. Brown stated she and Mr. Best attended the NACO Conference held in Charlotte. They offered good workshops and elections. Their technology summit was very fascinating and they had several doctors demonstrating the usage and capabilities of how the new Apple watch works just like a computer. We got a chance to visit the new BB&T Baseball Park and it looks like something in a magazine, it was very pretty.

Mr. Hill acknowledged the speakers Virgil Byrd, James Mumford, Todd Edwards and David Bell and thanked them for bringing their opinions to the Board today and giving them the opportunity to hear you. We thank you for your input as we were not planning on taking action on that item and we certainly will take all of your conversations under consideration as we move forward over the next few months.

Ms. Sutton stated Pink Hill recreation group will be meeting tomorrow night. Also, I would like to give kudos to our emergency room because I had to make a little visit. I had to say it was much improved with the process being streamlined and it was much nicer and they have been working hard on it. Kudos again to them.

Mr. Best stated the conference was good and I think it's great to be a part of NACO. They always provide good information and you get to hear different and enlightening conversations from other commissioners. It appears that mental health is becoming a big problem nationwide. Just being able to talk with other commissioners and share information and viewpoints that they are going through is good.

Ms. Sutton stated the Board should always send at least one member to conferences like that.

Ms. Brown stated the conference next year will be in California.

Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, stated this week Kinston will host the 12 and under World Series Baseball tournament, please go out and support our youth at Fairfield Park.

Meeting Adjourn at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie F. King

Clerk to the Board