

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 03, 2015

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 03, 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, Chris Harper, Special Projects Officer, 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. Best led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Jerry Henderson, President of the local SPCA, thanked the Board for all of the support given to the SPCA in the recent years. Mr. Henderson stated SPCA shelter was built in 1978, requires high maintenance, is very old, dusty, and too small for the number of animals we house. The biggest issue typically is during puppy and kitten season when we are over-run and we need a place to expand and put our dogs. The suggestion we have is that we build a puppy room adjacent to the current shelter. There is some property on the left hand side and we want to build an addition to the existing facility so we can move the puppies and utilize the interior space better. The SPCA will be responsible for the construction and expansion of the building. If at some time we were to vacate, the building would become the property of Lenoir County. We are not here today asking for money instead we are asking for your permission to build the new addition to our puppy room.

Joey Huff, Health Director, stated the agreement that has been placed before the Board is between Lenoir County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Lenoir County for the construction of a puppy room. I presented the agreement to the County Manager, Mike Jarman. Jerry Henderson and the SPCA board members have had the opportunity to review it and it also has been reviewed by the County Attorney, Mr. Bob Griffin. Basically today we want to make sure the County Commissioners will approve this agreement and authorize the SPCA to make improvements to a currently county owned property. The purpose of this addition is to house un-weaned and weaned puppies and nursing female dogs until disposition pursuant to SPCA procedures. If the Board agrees and authorizes permission the SPCA will procure all services needed for the construction including but not limited to surveying, architectural, professional engineer, landscaping/grading, tree removal, and construction. The SPCA will select a contractor that is bonded and licensed.

The size of the new wastewater discharge line will be adequate to handle all wastewater generated by the new construction. We will make sure that all construction materials and workmanship will conform to and comply with the Animal Welfare Section, NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services standards and regulations as required by Article 3 of Chapter 19A, Animal Welfare Act, and NCGS 153A-442. The SPCA will provide at its expense, enclosures (pens) to house puppies and nursing dogs of adequate size. These are designed for easy cleaning and sanitizing and preventing cross-contamination between enclosures. As for termination of SPCA shelter management, the SPCA assures Lenoir County that at such time the SPCA ceases shelter management operations and vacates the existing County-owned facility, the SPCA is not entitled to and does not expect reimbursement from County for any expenses incurred by SPCA for any portion of the puppy room construction or fixed contents. At this time, I will present this agreement to you for your consideration and I will be glad to address any questions you might have.

Ms. Brown asked if the dogs that are nursing will be in the same facility as the puppies or in a separate partition?

Mr. Henderson replied we will move the nursing mothers and puppies into the new facility which will free up space in the existing facility to expand the kittens.

Mr. Rouse asked how many puppies will the new construction hold?

Mr. Henderson replied approximately two dozen or more based on the size, and puppies are always adopted immediately.

Mr. Rouse asked what were the adoption numbers for this year?

Mr. Henderson replied 22%-23% for local adoptions and 28% were adopted out of state which gave them a total adoption rate of 52%, which is one of the highest rates in North Carolina.

Ms. Sutton stated the shelter has a good group of board members and volunteers.

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Rouse, item No. 2 was unanimously approved.
Common Consent

Mr. Hill stated we certainly appreciate the dedication and the work the SPCA is doing.

Tommy Benton, Monsanto Representative, stated he was present today representing the Southern Land Legacy grant program which is currently available in 17 counties in North Carolina. I would like to recognize our farmers who have done a great job. We like to highlight growers who have a positive impact on their communities. Mr. Benton presented a check for \$2,000 to Farm Bureau on behalf of the winning farmers. Michael Harris, a private farmer and Phillip Winslow, Director for the North Carolina State University Cunningham Research Farm. Both were recognized for their efforts to promote good stewardship in farming.

Phillip Winslow stated I am pleased to accept the award, we work hard with NC State to develop safe and sustainable food for North Carolina and for the states in our surrounding areas. As the winners of the award we had to choose a nonprofit beneficiary for the grant money. We had the option to pick a charity or a nonprofit that was associated with agriculture. I submitted the paperwork and chose Farm Bureau as the beneficiary.

Alton Roberson, Lenoir County Farm Bureau County President, stated the Farm Bureau recently put up a billboard near the Fuel Warehouse at Skinner's Bypass to raise awareness about family farms. We are trying to let the public know that the vast majority of your farming operations are family owned. Farm Bureau will use the \$2,000 grant from Monsanto to continue the billboard information campaign to promote agriculture in a positive note.

Mr. Hill encouraged all citizens to support our local farmers.

Matt Whittle, Executive Director, smART Kinston, stated the smART Foundation is a new nonprofit agency that was founded in 2013 and began its work in April of this year. We have two goals in mind, to build Kinston's Arts and Cultural District and to build Kinston/Lenoir County as a creative arts/culture/entertainment destination. The arts and cultural district was established as a mixed use zone by the City Council and is part of the Mitchelltown Community and falls in Kinston's Urban Redevelopment area. The borders are essentially Atlantic Avenue and the railroad track to the north, the Neuse River and the old power plant to the west and south, Pearson Park, and Mitchell Street to the south and east.

Over the last several years I'm sure you have noticed the work going on in the Arts and Cultural District, the renovations, the bright colors, and the white fences. Much of the work, a more than \$3.3 million investment, is due to Stephen Hill who had a desire to save these homes and this neighborhood. He had a vision for how arts and culture could do, while also transforming the local economy. There are nearly 50 homes in the district that have been renovated or are in the process of being renovated and nearly every one of them has tenants.

Even though we have not begun our recruitments efforts some of the tenants are artist. The goal is to find artists of any genre or medium, whether locally, regionally, across the state or country to come live and work in the district. Another goal is for them to have studios and galleries in their homes open to the public. Hopefully people can walk from downtown perhaps before or after dinner, or those who are on the Riverwalk and the artists can interact with the visitors.

We are serious about transforming Kinston and Lenoir County's economy through arts and culture, local assets and talents. Right now we are in the process of finalizing our artist relocation program, which will include monetary incentives as payments for moving costs and artistic supplies. We are working with local financial institutions to identify appropriate products, if artist are interested in buying a home, doing renovations or purchasing large pieces of equipment.

We would like to create a creative economy and community through creative place making, such as television, newspaper, radio, advertising, dance, music, architects, photographers, jewelers, florists, book stores and more. According to the Americans for the Arts Creative Industry reports, creative jobs account for 1.8% of the businesses in Lenoir County. This number is slightly under the state average, which means we have room to grow. Also, from the Americans for the Arts 2010 Arts and Prosperity study found that Kinston and Lenoir County's nonprofit arts/culture organizations had a \$1.6 million economic impact based on the jobs they created, as well as the number of people they brought into the community. We consider this to be an economic development effort that not only benefits Kinston but benefits the whole county.

At the moment, we are working to match the second half of our \$200,000 start-up grant from the Educational Foundation of America with funds either in hand or pledged by October 21, 2015. We are grateful because this is an effort to which Lenoir County Committee of 100 is contributing \$50,000 and one we hope the city will fund as well. We would certainly appreciate if the county would consider contributing or pledging \$25,000-\$50,000 by the October 21st deadline. At the very least, we would like you to consider showing your support for Kinston and Lenoir County's creative future during next year's budget discussions. The arts and culture have the potential to significantly impact Kinston and Lenoir County's economic future and we'd like the county to support smART Kinston and its partners in this effort. I will be glad to answer any questions you might have at this time or you can reach us at www.smartkinston.com.

Mr. Hill thanked Mr. Whittle and stated they will take it into consideration.

Mr. Hill encouraged everyone to read the article in today's News and Observer, which was on page one and is a great story.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John Nix, stated the 7th Annual Wings over the Neuse fundraiser offering plates of chicken wings with the trimmings for a donation will take place Friday, August 14, 2015. Mr. Nix stated the CSS Neuse is the only full-scale Civil War replica in the world built as a community project. We will offer pick-up and delivery until we have depleted our supply. Don't forget to come by for delicious wings to help the CSS Neuse Foundation.

Sammy Aiken, City Council member, stated the city of Kinston was awarded a \$400,000 Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Assessment and Cleanup Grant. This grant will help fund initial environmental tests for petroleum and hazardous materials. It also provides funding necessary to assess, clean up and ultimately redevelop contaminated properties, boost local economies and leverage jobs while protecting public health and the environment. Sites such as the old Kinston Shirt Factory located on the corner of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and King Street, junk yards, underground oil tanks, and Glen Raven Mills are some of the locations we are focusing on.

Although code enforcement has contacted the owners of the old shirt factory and they removed some of the things, the area still remains overgrown and unattended. To my understanding since the flood in 1999 there has not been a study pertaining to containments from the Neuse River to Raleigh. However, I am choosing to place the junk yards on top of the list because my greatest concern is Lenoir County having the second highest cancer rate in the state. The individuals conducting this study will be at the City Council meeting, August 17th at 7:00 p.m. to share information and some things that can be done to help.

Mr. Hill thanked both speakers for bringing their information to the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Nothing at this time.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:

Item No. 2 was an Agreement between Lenoir County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Lenoir County for the construction of a puppy room. Joey Huff, Health Director, read the agreement. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, item No. 2 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 3 was a Proclamation honoring National Farmers Market Week. Tammy Kelly, Cooperative Extension Director, introduced Ms. Pat Jenkins, Farmers Market manager. Ms. Jenkins read the proclamation. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, item No. 3 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Ms. Sutton stated since Ms. Jenkins has been manager at the Farmers Market it has made a big difference, and she is doing a wonderful job.

Mr. Hill thanked Ms. Jenkins for her efforts.

Ms. Kelly asked Ms. Kayci Willis, 4H summer camp student to join her at the podium.

Item No. 4 was a Resolution approving an agreement with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services Division in the amount of \$17,800, and contract for participation in the Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP) for \$4,000. Tammy Kelly, Cooperative Extension Director, stated the BMAP was created by State legislative action in 1992 with the purpose of helping manage ever increasing damage caused by beavers on private and public lands. Lenoir County residents, landowners, and businesses have experienced problems associated with beaver activity. The NC Cooperative Extension in Lenoir was contacted to develop a program designed to assist with the management of this problem. Lenoir County joined BMAP in 1997 and has continued to reap benefits from this program. The intent of the program is not to eradicate beavers in Lenoir County but to lessen the damage they cause. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Ms. Kelly introduced Kayci Willis 4H student and stated she will be attending the 4H Youth Summit this year. Kayci has also been working with Commissioner Eric Rouse learning about his role as a Lenoir County Commissioner.

Item No. 5 was a Resolution approving a purchase order to Horace G. Ilderton Dodge in the amount of \$47,558. Sheriff Ingram, stated the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office currently uses fleet vehicles to patrol the county and carry out their normal duties. We have chosen to use the Dodge Charger as the standard vehicle for deputies. The funds for this are billed as part of the yearly contract for the Town of LaGrange for law enforcement services. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 6 was a Resolution approving the programming for radio codeplug with Gately Communications in the amount of \$60,000. Roger Dail, EMS Director, stated for the past two years, Lenoir and Jones County officials have been discussing and implementing a merger of the Jones County E-911 Center with the Lenoir County E-911 Center. As part of the merger, an upgraded radio system is needed to enable and enhance communications with responders in both Lenoir and Jones Counties. Included in this cost are radios within Public Safety for both City and County agencies. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 7 was a Resolution approving the remount of a 2003 Ford E450 Wheeled Coach Ambulance Box from Select Custom Apparatus in the amount \$83,469.45. Roger Dail, EMS Director, stated The Lenoir County Emergency Services Department (EMS) maintains a fleet of twelve (12) ambulances. Approximately one-half (1/2) of the units in the fleet are in need of replacement as soon as possible, but budget constraints have hampered this objective. Regular replacements have not been possible in the past few years. The EMS Director is recommending remounting the box on a 2003 Ford E450 with 255,474 miles on a new chassis during this fiscal year. Staff feels that remounting the box of this truck onto a new 2016 Ford V-10 gas chassis will be the best course of action for additional unit replacement. This 2003 Ford requires upgrades to the box to do its age and outdated equipment. A new truck now costs \$140,000 to \$160,000, with a remount, including upgrades to the box, costing approximately \$83,469.45. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 8 was a Resolution FY 15-16 Purchase Order to Verizon Wireless for Department of Social Services: \$3,780. Susan Moore, DSS Director, stated approval of this resolution will allow encumbrance of funds approved in the FY 15-16 budget and the eventual payment of services as billed by Verizon Wireless for the purpose of purchasing six (6) Apple Ipad's at a cost of \$630 each. The Ipad's will be used by Adult and Child Welfare services supervisors and the assistant director for accessing Northwoods remotely. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 9 was a Resolution authorizing FY 15-16 Service Contracts and Purchase Order to One Source for Department of Social Services in the amount of \$5,250. Susan Moore, DSS Director, stated approval of this resolution will allow encumbrance of funds approved in the FY 15-16 budget and the eventual payment of services as billed by One Source for support, software and licensing for 5 additional licenses in the agency's document management software system. The additional licenses will be used by approved positions in the FY 15-16 budget. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Best, Item No 9 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 10 was a Resolution authorizing FY 15-16 Purchase Order to Dell for Department of Social Services in the amount of \$7,490. Susan Moore, DSS Director, stated approval of this resolution will allow encumbrance of funds approved in the FY 15-16 budget and the eventual payment of services as billed by Dell for the purpose of purchasing seven (7) laptops at a cost of \$1,070 each. The laptops will be used by (4) Child Support employees in court, (1) Adult Services supervisor for after hours Adult Protective Services calls, (1) paralegal in court, and (1) Assistant Director. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 11 was a Resolution approving FY 15-16 Lenoir County Home and Community Care Block Grant Funding Plan Revision #1. Susan Moore, DSS Director, stated the Home and Community Care Block Grant began July 1, 1992. It is comprised of funding for in-home and community based services, currently available through the Division of Aging, as well as a portion of funding targeted for in-home and community based services previously administered by the North Carolina Division of Social Services. Funds from the Older Americans Act constitute approximately 45% of Home and Community Care Block Grant funding and are intended to develop and enhance comprehensive and coordinated community based systems of services, opportunities, and protections for older adults.

Future funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose will also be included in the Home and Community Care Block Grant. Area Agencies on Aging will fund county programs on aging through grant agreements with Boards of County Commissioners and community service providers. Home and Community Care Block Grant funds provide services to the elderly population of Lenoir County by providing meals, Level I, II and III in-home aide services, operation of local senior centers, adult day care services and transportation. These grant funds are utilized by DSS and the local Council on Aging to provide Senior Services.

The majority of the funds, \$403,694 are used by the Lenoir County Council on Aging. The block grant gives County Commissioner's maximum discretion in deciding how aging funds will be administered and budgeted in their County. By endorsing a local Funding Plan, Boards of County Commissioners will define the services to be provided, determine funding levels for services, and identify the community service providers to be involved with providing Home and Community Care Block Grant services. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No 11 was unanimously approved. Called to Question

Item No.12 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Capital Improvements: Economic Development: \$2,410,961. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated this amendment will allow us to roll forward and distribute prior year's unexpended economic development, community development, and buildings and grounds funds into the appropriate expenditure lines in the capital improvement fund for the fiscal year 2015-2016. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Best, Item No 12 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 13 was a Resolution approving the purchase of Aerial Imagery from Pictometry, Inc. in the amount of \$40,211.90. Darrell Parrish, Tax Administrator, stated for the 2009 re-evaluation, cameras were purchased for the appraisers so they could take photographs of properties that could be used when taxpayers questioned the values of their property. 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. The options examined included buying tablets for the appraisers to use to take pictures and link to the property owners tax cards, contracting with a company to take photos, verify addresses and link to tax cards, and Pictometry's proposal to provide oblique aerial imagery of the entire county is \$40,211.9. I am bringing back to the Board additional information I received on Google Earth vs. Pictometry, Inc. I will say we do use Google but if you notice in the attachments I gave you, the second one is Google which is not a clear picture which makes it hard to identify. I feel like Pictometry, Inc. will be a big benefit to the Tax Department as it will allow us to identify the height and see structures in wooded areas, as well as measure land. I fully believe Pictometry is the better choice for us at this time as it will allow us to use the third party integration and will eventually pay for itself. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 13 was approved with one descending vote by Mr. Rouse. Called to Question

Mr. Rouse asked how long will it take for Pictometry to pay for itself?

Mr. Parrish replied about eight years.

Item No. 14A was a Resolution approving Tax Collector's 2014-2015 Annual Settlement. Darrell Parrish, Tax Administrator, stated, the Tax Department has worked diligently to collect all taxes due on real and personal property. This settlement provides documentation of these efforts. Pursuant to NCGS 105-373 the Lenoir County Tax Collector is required to make a full settlement with the governing body for all taxes. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 14A was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 14B was a Resolution declaring all uncollected taxes on personal property as "insolvent." Darrell Parrish, Tax Administrator, stated all uncollected taxes on personal property (for persons who listed no real property) are declared "insolvent" after the close of the fiscal year. However, every remedy allowable by law will continue to be pursued toward collection of these taxes. Pursuant to NCGS 105-373 the Tax Collector is required to provide a list of all persons whose personal property taxes for the preceding year remained unpaid and the amount owed by each. Upon receiving the report, the governing body of the taxing unit shall enter upon its minutes the names of persons owing taxes (but who listed no real property) whom it finds to be insolvent, and it shall by resolution designate the list entered into its minutes as the insolvent list to be credited to the Tax Collector in his settlement. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 14B was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Item No. 15 was a Resolution approving the stepping up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails. Ms. Brown read the Resolution. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 15 was unanimously approved. Common Consent

Mr. Best stated during the NACO Conference we learned mental health is an issue across the nation and a huge group of individuals are working diligently on it, and it will be a topic at the state conference.

Item No. 16 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No 16 was unanimously approved for Dr. Brantley Briley, Harrison Keith Montgomery, and Bruce Parsons appointment to the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development, and Carolyn J. Bias to the LC Nursing Home & Adult Care. Since this was the first appearance for Matthew A. Young no action is required at this time. Common Consent

Item No. 17 were items from the County Manager, Mike Jarman. Mr. Jarman stated the only thing he had was regarding the puppy room which has already been taken care of.

Mr. Hill stated that last week the Board approved Eric Rouse to the position of District 3 Director with the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. According to Amy Bason, Deputy Director/General Counsel, Eric's name has been given to the current District 3 Director, Bill Pate of Wayne County who will preside at the Caucus. On Friday August 21st at 5:00 p.m. during the Annual Conference Program the new director will be named. The chosen commissioner will serve a two-year term to conclude at NCACC's annual conference in August 2017. District Directors will be sworn in at the Fall Board of Directors Meeting.

Mr. Hill stated everyone should have received the 2014 Community Benefits Report from Lenoir Memorial Hospital. It has some good information listed about the hospital and activities that took place throughout the year of 2014.

Mr. Hill made a motion to move into closed session.

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton a closed session was entered into at approximately 10:10 a. m. with the following cited: Number Four (4): To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Lenoir County.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Brown and unanimous approval, the Board moved out of closed session at approximately 10:30 a.m. The meeting re-convened in open session at approximately 10:31 a.m.

Mr. Hill stated, we are back in open session. The board went into closed session to discuss a potential industry in Lenoir County. No action was taken. Mr. Hill asked if there were any additional comments? There were none.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Hill and a second by Ms. Brown, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie F. King

Clerk to the Board