

## MINUTES

### LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 3, 2013

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 3, 2013, in the Board of Commissioner Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members present: Chairman Reuben Davis, Vice-Chairman Jackie Brown and Commissioners, Mac Daughety, Craig Hill, Eric Rouse, Linda Rouse-Sutton and Roland Best.

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

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Ms. Brown offered the Invocation and Mr. Hill led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Mr. Victor Kosinski, the Veterans Employment Consultant with the Division of Workforce Solutions, formerly the Employment Security Commission, addressed the Board and said there would be a Veteran's Fair held on Thursday, September 12, 2103 from 9:00 a.m. until noon at The Vernon Park Mall. He stated any veteran or family member of a veteran will be able to speak with representatives from various staffing agencies, The Division of Workforce Solutions, AM Vets, the State Employees Credit Union, Lenoir Community College, Eastpointe and many more organizations will be represented. This will provide an opportunity for learning what is available to them, as well as them being able to get answers to any questions or concerns they might have. This was started one year ago at the National Guard Armory, but is being held this year at The Vernon Park Mall. Mr. Kosinski said he hopes everyone will be able to join them.

Mr. Guy Baysden spoke on behalf of the AM Vets and as the chairman of the committee for the 911 ceremony. He stated there will be a commemorative service held on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at Pearson Park beginning at 10:00 a.m., for the September 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This ceremony will focus on how the past twelve years, since September 11, 2001, have been impacted by that fateful day. Mr. Baysden said we have much to reflect upon and to honor. He reminded us the importance of our first responders and the state of readiness we should be in. He said that whenever the silence was broken, there were those that stood ready, and they continue to do that today. Mr. Baysden invited all to come out and take part in the ceremony.

## **ITEMS FROM THE CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONERS**

Mr. Daughety presented a resolution Expressing Gratitude and Appreciation to the United States Armed Forces. He said the military had a tremendous presence in Lenoir County although there is not a base located within the county. Mr. Daughety said there are many people who live in Lenoir County, but work at one of the military bases in adjacent counties. He stated in a spirit of regional support, all counties need to pull together and be unified as a region. Mr. Daughety stated with the base realignments and closures that will take place in 2014, he saw the need to sit down with leaders from Craven and Onslow counties to draft this resolution. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Rouse, the resolution passed unanimously.

Ms. Brown gave a synopsis of the 106<sup>th</sup> annual NCACC Conference she attended last week in Guilford County and stated the theme of the conference was “Unlocking Opportunities in 2013”. She stated one of the highlights of the conference was a speech given by a Lenoir County 4-Her, Joel Dixon, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student from Kinston High School. Ms. Brown said another highlight was a gentleman from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who was recently featured in Parade Magazine. This man was responsible for starting the Community Garden programs in the country. She said he told of how he saw so many hungry people and so many people that were not eating healthy, nutritious food. He was given land by the city of Milwaukee, which he in turn divided into plots for families to raise healthy foods.

Ms. Brown said she was disappointed in the district caucus. She stated Lenoir County had not had a person serve as the district director since 1999, and Wayne, Craven and Jones Counties had gotten together in support of Wayne County having someone serve as the director for this term. Ms. Brown said she did bring back a USB port for each of the commissioners, which had highlights from the conference.

Mr. Hill said he wanted to invite everyone to attend the Kinston Noon Rotary meeting this coming Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at Kings Restaurant at 1:00 p.m. This month, Mr. John Chaffee, the CEO of the Eastern Region will be the speaker, and he will talk about the changes taking place within the Eastern Region.

## **ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER**

Mr. Jarman said Mr. Rouse had asked at the last Commissioners’ meeting for a report of the sales tax received by the County. Mr. Jarman stated the enclosed Sales Tax report for FY12-13 was broken down into each sales tax category, and the amount received thus far. He said there was still one month outstanding that had not been received, and it looked as if we would exceed 100% collection, but not by very much.

Mr. Jarman also reminded the Commissioners about the Fall Litter Sweep which will take place from September 21 – October 5, 2013.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

3. Approval of Minutes: Board Meeting: August 19, 2013 Mervin/Jarman
4. Resolution approving Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein Parrish

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

## **RESOLUTIONS/BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:**

Item No. 5 was a Resolution Honoring Ms. Barbara Perry. Dana King, Elections Director, introduced Ms. Perry and stated what an honor it had been to work with her these past 21 years. Ms. Brown then read the Resolution honoring Ms. Perry. Ms. Perry thanked everyone and was then personally congratulated by each of the Commissioners.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution Approving Presentation of Badge and Service Weapon to Retiring Deputy Randy Moore. Sheriff Hill stated Mr. Best would be reading the resolution honoring retiring Randy Moore. Mr. Best then read the resolution which requested the Board to authorize Sheriff Chris Hill to present to retiring Deputy Randy Moore, his Lenoir County Sheriff's Office badge and Glock .45 caliber service weapon, pursuant to state law and past county practices. In keeping with the North Carolina General Statutes and local government practices, it is recommended that Deputy Randy Moore be presented with his badge and Glock .45 caliber service weapon (serial number NMA076). Mr. Best then presented a plaque and his service weapon to Mr. Moore. Mr. Moore then addressed the Board and told them he had met many good people while in the Sheriff's Department and would cherish all of the fond memories. Mr. Moore was then personally congratulated by each of the Commissioners.

Item No.7 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Non-Departmental: \$15,714: Increase. Ms. Martin stated this Budget Ordinance Amendment is to appropriate additional property tax revenue received by the County as a result of a business personal property tax audit being conducted by 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. The Board approved the contract with County Tax Services, Inc. on May 17, 2010, Item #8. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Hill, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health (WIC Program State): \$5166: Decrease. Mr. Huff stated this Budget Ordinance Amendment is due to the State Budget for WIC supporting 2% increase in salaries by reducing operating expenses. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: \$16,487: Increase. Mr. Huff stated this Budget Ordinance Amendment is due to the increase to Child Coordination for Children in regard to monthly projections of receiving \$11,942.40 a month. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Hill, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: \$19,305: Decrease. Mr. Huff stated this Budget Ordinance Amendment is due to a decrease to Pregnancy Care Management in regard to monthly projections of receiving \$13,337.10 a month. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Hill, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Trust and Agency Fund: Finance/Extension-Family Caregiver: \$54,094: Decrease. Ms. Kelly stated this Budget Ordinance Amendment is to decrease the budgeted amounts of the Partnership for Children Program. Whenever the budget was being compiled, it was thought that the Partnership for Children would be receiving the same funding as FY 12-13. However, on August 20, the county received notification from the Lenoir-Greene Partnership, that they would only be receiving \$47,629 from the NC Partnership for Children. Therefore, the budget is being decreased accordingly. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved. Ms. Kelly told the Board there would be a reception for Ms. Evelyn Kittrell, the worker who was retiring due to these cuts, on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., and everyone was invited.

Item No. 12 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: COOP Ext-Kate B. Reynolds: \$78,001: Increase. Ms. Kelly stated this Budget Ordinance Amendment is to set up grant funds from the Kate B. Reynolds Grant. This is the second of three installment payments of this grant. This grant was initially approved in FY-11-12, with the grant funds being designated to provide a healthy food access program in Lenoir County. Any unexpended funds will be rolled over into FY 14-15. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Hill, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Community Transformation Grant Funds: \$2,240. Ms. Kelly stated the Board is requested to authorize the acceptance of Community Transformation Grant funds in the amount of \$2,240 to support access to healthy local foods, by providing marketing and supplies to the Lenoir County Farmer's Market and LCFM Annex. She also said she would like to thank Mr. Huff who was instrumental in helping her obtain these funds from the Region 10 grant monies, which would be used to purchase a cooling fan and a sound system for the Farmers' Market. 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 the Acceptance of the 50% Match of the State of North Carolina's Appropriated Special Leave Provision to the Lenoir County Employees of North Carolina Cooperative Extension: Ms. Kelly stated the Board is requested to authorize the acceptance of the award of a proportional match (50%) of the State of North Carolina Appropriated "Special Leave" provision to Lenoir County Employees of N.C. Cooperative Extension. She stated this will enable our local employees to receive the full benefit intended by the State of North Carolina. Ms. Kelly also said this leave was different from the bonus leave given to State employees several years ago, in that the leave had to be taken in this fiscal year. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 14 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 15 was a Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County to Enter into a Contract and Agreement with Walter and Sylvia Poole to Trade 4.53 Acres of County Property in the Hwy. 70 Industrial Park for Property Owned by the Poole's at 1278 Hwy. 258 North. This resolution was pulled and will be scheduled at a later date.

Item No. 16 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. There was no action to be taken.

Item No. 17 was an add-on Resolution Approving an Economic Development Grant Agreement: Associated Materials, LLC: \$60,000. Mark Pope addressed the Board and stated this resolution and grant agreement were relative to the press release last week from the Governor's office about the expansion of AMI. He stated AMI has had a presence in Lenoir County for over 25 years. He said the parent company in Ohio had determined there was a high turnover ratio in the workforce whenever contract labor was used. They determined by hiring full-time employees and providing them with benefits the turnover ratio was much lower. Mr. Pope also said he would like to thank Bobby Merritt and Lenoir Community College for their cooperation in training the local workforce to be able to work at our local facilities. He said we pull workers from area military bases, and have been very successful in training workers for Spirit, Smithfield, etc. Mr. Pope also praised the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program in our area schools for preparing the workforce of the future.

Ms. Brown asked why the STEM program was available only at Contentnea/Savannah and the charter schools. Mr. Pope answered by saying they would not go into all of the middle schools at first without having the support of the community. He also said there is a tremendous amount of cost involved in setting up the labs for the schools. Mr. Pope said once the program has been proven, they will begin to branch out into the other schools. He also said STEM will probably branch out into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) in the near future.

Mr. Pope then read the press release from the Governor's office regarding the AMI expansion. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 17 was unanimously approved. Attorney Griffin pointed out to the Board the benefit this Economic Development Agreement was to the County. He stated the number of full-time jobs that were being provided plus the benefits. He also said the County doesn't pay out any funds at all, until the incentives have been met.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, the commissioners went into closed session at 9:53 a.m. to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Lenoir County.

**OPEN SESSION:**

The commissioners came out of closed session at 10:14 a.m. Mr. Davis stated the Board had met to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Lenoir County, but no action was taken

With no further discussion Mr. Davis adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reviewed By,

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Faye H. Mervin

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Michael W. Jarman

Deputy Clerk

County Manager