

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 17, 2012

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 17, 2012 in the Board of Commissioners Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members Present: Chairman George Graham, and Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Mac Daughety, Linda Rouse Sutton, Tommy Pharo, and Eric Rouse

Members Absent: Reuben Davis

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager, Martha Martin, Finance Officer, Robert Griffin, County Attorney, Clevette Roberts, Interim Clerk to the Board, and members of the general public and news media.

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at approximately 4:05 p.m. Ms. Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Graham led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Daughety, Mr. Davis' absence was excused.

ITEMS FROM THE CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONERS

Ms. Jackie Brown stated she received a letter from the newly elected President of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. Ms. Brown stated she has been appointed to the Education Steering Committee for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. Mr. Graham and the Board commended Ms. Brown for being appointed to a State level position.

Ms. Sutton stated Jackie Brown has been appointed as Chairman for the JCPC Committee. Ms. Sutton mentioned Mr. Pharo will be resigning from Greene Lamp's Board. Ms. Sutton made a motion to appoint Jackie Brown to fulfill the term of Mr. Pharo on the Greene Lamp Board, and a second was made by Mr. Daughety; the motion to appoint Jackie Brown on the Greene Lamp Board was unanimously approved.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Jarman stated Mr. Daughety inquired about what percentage of the County budget was mandated by State and Federal Government regarding expenditures. Mr. Jarman stated per discussion with Rebecca Troutman, Intergovernmental Relations Director for the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, about 70% of the County's budget is mandated by the State and Federal Government. Mr. Jarman stated the percentage is not an exact amount because there are different criteria for the mandates such as; education, public assistance, law enforcement, emergency services, public safety, etc. Mr. Daughety stated Mr. Jarman made a presentation to the Rotary Club and discussed mandates and how the County operates. Mr. Jarman stated 50% of the County's revenue derives from property taxes, 9% from sales taxes, 23% from State and Federal Government (Intergovernmental Funds), and a small portion from fees that are charged for services- all are a part of the County's revenue. Mr. Jarman stated about 30% of the County's General Fund Budget is spent on education. Mr. Jarman stated 26% is spent on Lenoir County Public Schools and 4% is spent on Lenoir Community College. Mr. Jarman stated 16% is used for the schools' current expenses, which is about \$9.9 million and the Debt Service cost balance is \$6.3 million. Mr. Jarman stated another key expenditure is Department of Social Services' Public Assistance Services which represents a large portion of the County's expenditures as well. Mr. Graham stated the County has to find resources to ensure funds are available for services (Public Assistance, Public Schools, etc.), which are called unfunded mandates. Mr. Jarman stated in the 1700's, the State had people in place in every county to operate the county government, however, at that time they were not able to travel back and forth to Raleigh. The State decided to give more responsibilities to the counties, to enhance the lives of citizens.

CONSENT AGENDA: 10Min.

ACTION

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: September 4, 2012 Roberts/ Jarman

Mr. Bob Griffin, County Attorney, indicated Item No.6 should state; a motion was approved unanimously to table Item No. 6 indefinitely. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Brown to correct Item No. 6, was unanimously approved.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

Item No. 4 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Capital Improvements Fund Economic Development in the amount of \$25,000. Ms. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated the budget amendment was to appropriate funds from Barnhill Contracting for the Lease of Property at the Industrial Park. The Lease Agreement with Barnhill was approved at the August 6, 2012 Board of Commissioners Meeting, Item No. 23. Mr. Rouse inquired if there will be any improvements made to the property. Mr. Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, stated two driveways have been cut and will be paved. He also said drainage, water, sewer, and utilities will be place on the site. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Pharo, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved.

Mr. Pope discussed the Coastal Wind Energy Project in Beaufort County and stated the Air Force objects to a planned wind farm in eastern North Carolina. Mr. Pope stated the windmill blades reach nearly 500 feet high, and they could threaten low-flying fighter jets from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. The wind-power project would feature nearly 50 turbines spread out on 11,000-acres in Beaufort County. Mr. Pope stated the turbines would stand near military training routes as the jets approach a Dare County bombing range. Mr. Pope mentioned the military stated the turbine towers would pose a safety risk to pilots at night and could interfere with military radars. Mr. Pope stated Seymour Johnson in Goldsboro has the only F-15E Strike Eagle training squadrons in the Air Force. Mr. Pope said the military stated if it were forced to relocate the bombing runs, it would undermine the base's core mission and risk harming the local economy. Mr. Daughety stated there has been discussion about a planned wind farm and stated strong messages have been sent to legislators in opposition of Coastal Wind Energy Project. Mr. Daughety stated the Transportation Committee will be submitting resolution in opposition of the project.

Mr. Graham commended Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, and Mark Pope, Economic Development Director on a job well done regarding Economic Development in Lenoir County. Mr. Graham stated Economic Development is a County wide function and there have been many articles in the newspaper and the media that have misled viewers about what Economic Development is all about. Mr. Graham encouraged everyone to be mindful and be very careful when discussing Economic Development with the general public, press and media. Mr. Pope stated per discussion with Smithfield Foods Inc., the public relations issue has been resolved. Mr. Graham stated the Board recommends Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, and Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, to be the spokespersons for Economic Development.

Ms. Sutton commended Mr. Steve Ragan, a citizen of Lenoir County, for spreading the word and educating the general public about the facts he has learned about the One-Quarter Cent Sale Tax Referendum, etc.

APPOINTMENTS

Item No. 5 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

| <u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u> | <u>APPLICANT/CURRENT MEMBER</u> | <u>TERM EXPIRATION</u> |
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| Lenoir County Health Board 2 nd Appearance | Michael G. Wiggins, Jr. | August 2016 |

Mr. Graham adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m. The Commissioners, staff and media were then given a tour of the new jail facility by James DeMetro.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Clevette F. Roberts
Interim Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager