

**MINUTES**  
**LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 21, 2009**

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2009 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, Vice-Chairman Claude Stroud and Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Reuben Davis, Chris Humphrey, Tommy Pharo and Linda Rouse Sutton

Members absent: None

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

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. Ms. Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Graham led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

The Board invited fitness club representatives to voice their concerns in regards to the proposed Woodmen of the World (WOW) Community Center. The speakers were as followed: Ms. Sissy Coombs, General Manager of Galaxy of Sports, stated she was in support of Kinston-Lenoir County receiving a community center, but feels the fitness aspect of the center would put it in direct competition with the 14 private gym owners in the community. Ms. Coombs stated the facility could offer other amenities such as indoor baseball training, and an indoor soccer complex. Ms. Coombs stated those amenities would be a better fit for the entire community. She asked that the WOW committee reconsider the fitness aspect of the facility.

Mr. Jeff Hill, Owner of Fit for Life, stated he understands the need for a community center but does not agree with the physical activities that are planned for the facility. Mr. Hill stated that no government entity has helped private gym owners with the creation of their facilities. Mr. Hill stated public monies should not be used to put gym owners out of business. Mr. Hill concluded that he would like the WOW to omit the fitness aspect from the community center.

Mr. Billy Stallings, Owner of Curves, stated he does not feel it is fair that he and other gym owners have to compete against government entities. Mr. Stallings stated the community center would become a marketing tool for WOW and would not offer any type of health aspect that is not already being offered by other gym owners. Mr. Stallings would like WOW to omit the fitness center from the community center plans.

Mr. Humphrey stated the reasons given by the gym owners is why he did not vote for the project. Mr. Humphrey stated he would like the Board to consider some of the other ideas given by the gym owners. Ms. Sutton thanked the speakers for their comments; she feels the project is worthwhile and would be a great asset to the city and county. Mr. Stroud stated he feels that it is a good project and stands behind his decision.

Mr. Pharo stated he would have liked to have known more information about the center before the vote and would have liked to heard public comments. Mr. Pharo stated he likes the idea of the project, but does not want to hurt private business owners in the community. Ms. Brown stated the center would be a welcomed addition. Mr. Davis stated he still supports the project and would like WOW to minimize the concerns of the gym owners. Mr. Graham stated the Board is not in a position to decide how the facility will be designed or constructed. Mr. Graham stated he supports the community center and knows it will be a great "drawing card" for the community as a whole. Mr. Bill Ellis, Parks and Recreation Director stated WOW will be creating community centers across the United States and will be using the Kinston facility as a base design for others. Mr. Ellis stated that it should be noted that WOW would be guaranteeing all the operating costs of the facility. Revenues generated from the facility will pay for staffing. WOW offices will be located in the facility as well. Mr. Ellis stated he along with WOW members are willing to sit and discuss the plans for the facility with the gym owners of the community to help alleviate any concerns. The Board thanked Mr. Ellis and the members of the public for their comments.

Mr. Jack Jones, Director of Social Services (DSS) and Mr. Chris Harper, Program Manager updated the Board on DSS activities. Mr. Harper updated the Board on the Work First program. Work First was formerly known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). AFDC changed to WFFA in 1996 as a result of welfare reform. Work First is based on the premise that parents have a responsibility to support themselves and their children; the average monthly payment is \$213. All families must complete a Mutual Responsibility Agreement (MRA); an MRA is a contract to become "Self Sufficient." In most MRA's, the parent or caretaker must complete 35 hours per week of work or work related activities. In North Carolina, a family can receive assistance for 24 consecutive months, then must be off the system for 3 years, before receiving again. The family has a 60-month lifetime benefit limit. The number of families enrolled in Work First has decreased rapidly with number of 1,773 in 1995 to 158 families in 2009. Mr. Jones addressed budget issues of the past, present and future. Mr. Jones stated the DSS budget has been very good in recent years. There has been a total savings to Lenoir County government of approximately \$7,905,184. In the past the 100% of county funding was used to fund child welfare, adult services, day care, energy program and adult services. Today, the county uses very little to no county funding for these services. Lenoir County has chosen to be an "electing" county; this decision has had an impact on the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and the use of unspent TANF Cash Allocations. Electing counties can use their unspent TANF assistance allocation for administration; in contrast the "standard" counties cannot. If an electing county overspends its TANF cash allocation, then the excess is 100% county funds. Mr. Jones concluded his presentation by stating if the county loses its "electing" county status, the immediate deficit would be \$739,325. It is important for Lenoir County to maintain its electing status. The Board thanked Mr. Jones for the information.

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

Item No. 1 was Items from the Chairman and Members of the Board. Mr. Graham thanked the Governor for the painting presented to him with the image of the Lenoir County Courthouse. Mr. Graham requested a thank you letter be sent to the Governors office. Mr. Graham stated the Veterans Nursing Facility has been approved for federal funding. Construction will begin when a design plan has been agreed on. The Skilled Nursing Facility will add an additional 150 jobs to Kinston-Lenoir County.

Mr. Stroud made a motion for the Board to approve a support resolution for Merchant Marines. Mr. Stroud stated that Mr. Don Horton would be very appreciative if the Board would grant its support to obtain benefits for Merchant Marines. Mr. Jarman stated he would advise the Board not to approve such a resolution without having more information regarding the merchant marines. The Board concluded that the matter had been discussed at a previous meeting and was tabled indefinitely due to the federal and state laws involved. Mr. Stroud withdrew his motion for a support resolution.

### **ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER**

Item No. 2 was Items from the County Manager. Mr. Jarman stated two additional members are needed to serve on the US 70 Corridor Commission; a member is also needed to serve on the Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Transportation Advisory Council (TAC). Mayor Gurley from the Town of LaGrange is the current TAC representative, but has been unable to attend all the meetings as scheduled. The TAC member has to be an elected official in order to cast a vote. Mr. Humphrey stated he would contact Mr. Gurley regarding the appointment to the committee. Mr. Mark Pope was appointed to serve as a member of the US 70 Corridor Commission; Mr. Jarman stated he would contact the City to appoint another member. Mr. Anthony Kennedy was discussed as a possible member of the Transportation Coordinating Committee. Mr. Pharo stated he would ask Mr. Kennedy if he was interested.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: September 8, 2009 Aytch/Jarman
4. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Jail: \$2,058: Increase Martin/Jarman

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

Item No. 5 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Transportation Fund: Transportation Administration: \$51,498: Increase. The amendment appropriates an additional amount for the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP). A public hearing was held during July 20, 2009 commissioners' meeting and a resolution was approved to allow Transit to apply for the ROAP funding. A resolution approving Transit's portion of the ROAP funds was approved on August 3, 2009. This budget amendment appropriates the additional 60% of EDTAP and EDTAP-Supplemental funding that is sub-allocated through Transit for the Council on Aging. Upon a motion by Mr. Humphrey and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution Approving Purchase of a Narcotics Incinerator: \$4,250. Major Chris Hill of the Lenoir County Sheriff's Department addressed the Board. Mr. Hill stated A new device is being used by law enforcement agencies throughout the United States. The Drug Terminator is a portable incinerator, which can burn narcotics and other materials leaving nothing but ashes. The incinerator uses electric blowers, which greatly enhance the heat within the burning chamber. The system is portable and can be rolled into place with ease. Sheriff's detectives recently traveled to New Hanover County and viewed the operation of the system. They found the Drug Terminator to be smoke and fume free, easy to use and completely destroyed anything that was placed into of the incinerator. Elastic American Marine is the manufacturer of this system. The cost to purchase this system is \$4,250, which includes shipping and handling.

The Sheriff respectfully requests the Board of Commissioners to permit the Sheriff to execute a purchase order with Elastic American Marine for the purchase of the Drug Terminator. Funds for this purchase will come from the State Controlled Substance Tax fund. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Stroud, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Approving Purchase Order for Down East Protection Systems: \$4,000. In order to help ensure the safety of the employees of the Department of Social Services, the four doors leading from the lobby area of the DSS building to the remaining parts of the building must be locked when not in use. This has been accomplished for many years by a mechanical locking system that requires a code to be manually entered to unlock the door. After many years of constant use and frequent repairs, this system needs to be replaced. An Access Control System currently used in the rest of the building has proved successful. Employee identification badges activate this system. We would like to remove the older mechanisms and replace it with a more updated security system. Much of the equipment necessary to accomplish this task is already owned by DSS. The requested amount would cover the moving of the ID badge readers from their current location to the four doors in the lobby. The existing mechanical locks would be replaced and new doorknobs and electric strikes would be installed. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution Approving Childcare ARRA Funds: \$376,839. The Division of Child Development has allocated \$376,839 in ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds to Lenoir County. These funds can only be used to support the need categories of the childcare and development funds—employment, seeking employment, expanded seeking employment and education and expanded post-secondary education and job training for families. ARRA funds will be allotted each quarter and will be used exclusively in Lenoir County to reduce or eliminate the Child Care Waiting List. These families should be aware that the provision of childcare services is due to the availability of ARRA funds and otherwise services would not have been provided to them. Services may need to be discontinued once the funds are depleted. However, childcare staff will provide information regarding other available resources to families. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Pharo, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Appointing Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. The following reflects existing vacancies and appointments. Item was tabled.

<u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u>	<u>APPLICANT/ CURRENT MEMBER</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appearance	Beth Heath (Re-Appointment)  Jill Croom (Appointment)	June 2011 M: Brown S: Pharo
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council 1 <sup>st</sup> Appearance	Ella M. Clark Joey Huff Luberta Parker Chris Rogerson (Re-Appointment)  Glenn Elmore Wanda H. Jordan Bobby R. Lambert Tara Taylor (Appointments)	June 2011

**CURRENT VACANCIES**

- Lenoir County Economic Development Board – At-Large Member**
- Lenoir County Health Board – (1) Veterinarian, (1) Optometrist, (2) Public Members**
- Lenoir County Planning Board – Districts One (1), Four (4) and Alternate**
- Grifton Planning Board – One (1) Vacancy**
- CJPP – Three (3) Vacancies**
- Kinston Board of Adjustment – Two (2) ETJ Members; (1) Primary – (1) Alternate**

**AMENDMENTS**

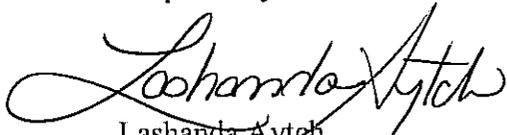
Amendment No. 1 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health (WIC Program) Increase: \$24,432. The amendment is for additional state funding allotted to agencies currently serving greater than 100% of the their average base caseload; base caseload for the W.I.C. Program increase; funding adjusted accordingly. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Amendment No. 1 was unanimously approved.

Amendment No. 2 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health (General Program) Increase: \$38,248.37. The amendment is for additional state funding provided as a result of Random Moment Time Study. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Amendment No. 2 was unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

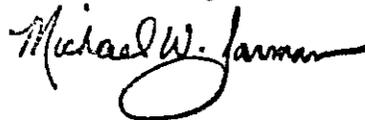
Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Stroud the Board adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lashanda Aytch  
Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By



Michael W. Jarman  
County Manager