

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 15, 2012

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 15, 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, Vice-Chairman Reuben Davis and Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Mac Daughety, Linda Rouse Sutton, Tommy Pharo, and Eric Rouse

Members Absent: None

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

Chairman Graham called the meeting to order at approximately 4:02 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. Pharo, the Board excused Mr. Daughety for being a few minutes late.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Karen Kozel, who is filling the remainder of Stephen Laroque's term addressed the Board. Ms. Kozel stated she is currently working with Wayne County Commissioners Steve Keen and Ray Mayo on a case concerning pay for Wayne County Emergency Medical Service employees. The case may have similarities to issues Lenoir County experienced in the past with our former method of payment for EMS staff.

ITEMS FROM THE CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Rouse stated there have been changes to the East Carolina Council Bylaws. Mr. Rouse stated Onslow County elected not to pay the full amount of dues but elected to pay for the aging services only. Mr. Rouse stated per the current East Carolina Council bylaws, Onslow County may pay for the aging services only. Mr. Jarman stated the East Carolina Council dues are reviewed annually and decisions are made at that time regarding whether to remain an East Carolina Council Member. Mr. Jarman stated the City of Kinston elected not to be a member of East Carolina Council.

Mr. Jarman stated dues are based on population. The County's dues for the current year were \$18,000. Mr. Jarman stated the County became responsible for the City of Kinston's population when their membership ended. This cost the County an additional \$9,000. Mr. Jarman with assistance from Susan Moore, Department of Social Services Director, reviewed the costs of membership. Mr. Jarman stated the County receives between \$400,000-\$500,000 grant funding that benefits seniors in Lenoir County. Mr. Jarman stated if the County was not a member of the East Carolina Council, some grant funding received to assist seniors in Lenoir County would have to be matched by the County. Mr. Jarman stated the match for grant funding is greater than the East Carolina Council Membership dues. Mr. Jarman stated after reviewing the facts, the County decided to remain an East Carolina Council Member. Mr. Graham stated the East Carolina Council was once named Neuse River Council of Government. Mr. Graham stated the Economic Development Association funds are received from East Carolina Council. Mr. Graham stated the Economic Development Association funds cannot be utilized if the County is not an East Carolina Council Member. Mr. Jarman stated the Economic Development Association funds have not been utilized in years. Mr. Rouse stated the East Carolina Council Bylaws have been changed and the only option is to be in or out of the association. Mr. Jarman stated the East Carolina Council will be meeting to discuss the possible changes in bylaws. Mr. Jarman stated the East Carolina Council is considering making changes to the bylaws, a letter was mailed to East Carolina Council Members thirty days in advance and each member has the option to agree or disagree with the changes and respond accordingly. Mr. Davis inquired if the changes to bylaws would take place during the next Fiscal Year, 2013-2014? Mr. Jarman stated all changes made would be in effect for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Mr. Daughety stated per discussion with John Chaffey, President and CEO of NC Eastern Region and Larry Moolenaar, former Executive Director of East Carolina Council of Government, it was suggested that both regions (East Carolina Council and NC Eastern Region) combine, which could possibly alleviate the membership dues for the East Carolina Council of Government. Mr. Daughety stated currently the County is funded for Council on Aging from the East Carolina Council of Government. Mr. Jarman stated the Department of Transportation funds the transportation for the East Carolina Council of Government. Mr. Graham stated there are two very distinct groups which are Council of Government (Council on Aging and local government functions) and the other is NC Eastern Region (Economic and Job Development). Mr. Graham stated if the County is not an East Carolina Council Member, the County may not receive grant funding (\$400,000-\$500,000) for Council on Aging. Mr. Jarman stated the County could receive grant funding for Council on Aging, however, the County would have to pay the match for funding received. Mr. Daughety clarified the discussion regarding combining both regions, he stated it was suggested if the regions were combined it would all operate under one leadership. Ms. Sutton suggested that East Carolina Council Board Member should communicate with East Carolina Council regarding modifications to the East Carolina Council Bylaws. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Pharo, Eric Rouse, East Carolina Council Board Member, was instructed to communicate with the East Carolina Council regarding modifications to the East Carolina Council Bylaws. The motion was unanimously approved.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Jarman stated a new law passed by the NC General Assembly requires all current permanent plates to be cancelled and re-issued under new eligibility rules before the end of this year (December 31, 2012). Mr. Jarman stated vehicle owners with current permanent plates must purchase either a new permanent plate or a standard "First in Flight" license plate by December 31, 2012. Mr. Jarman stated new orange and black permanent plates will replace the current silver and black plates. Mr. Jarman stated a one-time fee of \$6 will be charged for permanent plates. Ms. Sutton inquired if permanent plates will include school buses? Mr. Jarman stated about 120,000 permanent plates will have to receive new tags, which will create about \$720,000 in revenue at \$6 per license plate. Mr. Jarman stated some churches and other organizations that met previous guidelines will now have to use standard plates, which will cost \$28-\$33. Mr. Jarman stated the County vehicles qualify for permanent plates and will have to pay the \$6 fee to upgrade to the new permanent license plates.

CONSENT AGENDA: 10Min.

ACTION

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: October 1, 2012 Roberts/ Jarman

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: General Fund: Non-Departmental in the amount of \$3,149: Increase. Mr. Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager, stated the budget amendment was 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. Mr. Hollowell stated County Tax Services, Inc. receives a 30% commission on all business personal property discoveries found as a result of the audit. Mr. Hollowell stated the County pays this commission only after the tax payer pays the Discovery Tax Bill. Mr. Hollowell stated the Board approved the contract with County Tax Services, Inc. on May 17, 2010, Item No. 8. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 5 was a Resolution Amending Leave Credit Policy: Sheriff and Register of Deeds. Mr. Jack Jones, Human Resources Director, stated the Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution on January 24, 2000 amending the Personnel Policy regarding Leave Credits for the Sheriff and Register of Deeds. Mr. Jones stated specifically, the policy was revised to read as follows (Section 125.2 Leave Credit Policy). Annual leave shall be accumulated at the same rate as any other county employee without a maximum until December 31st of each calendar year, or until the end of the bi-weekly pay period at the end of the calendar year which contains December 31st. If the Elected Officials specified herein separate or retire from county employment, such accumulation shall not be subject to the maximum thirty (30) days payment, but on December 31st or at the end of the bi-weekly pay period at the end of the calendar year, which contains December 31st, all accumulated annual leave shall apply towards retirement credit.

In reviewing the minutes from the January 24, 2000 meeting, we found no explanation for eliminating, restricting or preventing the pay-out of accrued annual leave for the Sheriff and Register of Deeds. Mr. Jones stated the present policy only allows the hours accrued for annual leave to be credited towards years of service upon the separation or retirement of the Sheriff or Register of Deeds. It does not allow these two employees to receive the 30-day vacation pay-out benefit option that all other employees receive. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 a Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County Health Department to Execute a Purchase Order to Advanced Imaging Systems for Scanning Inactive Medical Records for Data Storage not to Exceed \$15,000 was listed in error. This resolution was pulled and the correct Item No. 6 a Resolution Authorizing Lenoir County Health Department to Provide Flu and Tdap Immunizations to Partnership for Children affiliated Daycare Center Staff was added. Mr. Joey Huff, Health Department Director stated Keith Sylvester, Director of the Partnership for Children contacted him and asked if the Health Department could administer Tdap and Flu shots to Partnership for Children daycare center staff. Mr. Huff stated the Health Department will be providing daycare center staff with Tdap and Flu shots that can prevent the spread of Pertussis (Whooping Cough) and Influenza to vulnerable children. Upon a motion by Mr. Pharo and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of a Grant in the amount \$48,119 from Eastpointe Mental Health to Operate a Youth Targeted Prevention Site. Ms. Tammy Kelly, Cooperative Extension Director, stated the 4-H Prevention Program is designed to educate elementary, middle and high school age youth. Ms. Kelly stated some of the target topics include Risky Lifestyle Choices, Goal Setting, Character Building, Positive Self Esteem, Substance Abuse Prevention and Education, Team Building, Bullying and other 4-H related curriculum. Ms. Kelly stated the 4-H Prevention Program also works with afterschool programs, Kennedy Home, Early College, Dobbs Youth Detention Center and Sampson Suspension School. The program hosts many events such as Red Ribbon Week, Great American Smoke Out, Prom Promises, Kick Butts Day, Students Against Destructive Decisions and an Impaired Driving Simulation Experience. Ms. Kelly stated 4-H Prevention serves all of Lenoir County. Ms. Kelly stated Eastpointe Mental Health is providing a grant in the amount of \$48,119 for the support of the 4-H Prevention Program. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No.8 was a Resolution Requesting Approval of Easements to City of Kinston. Mr. Jarman stated Lenoir County received notification from the City of Kinston that a 30 ft. Easement was needed to install an electric line and general utilities on Enterprise Boulevard to provide service to the site that Lenoir County has leased Barnhill Contracting Company. Mr. Jarman stated Barnhill Contracting Company will construct a temporary Asphalt Plant at this location to facilitate the paving of Section A of the Harvey Parkway. Mr. Jarman stated the easements will allow the City of Kinston to upgrade their services to the other industries (Pioneer, Select Foods, and DoPaco/Pactiv) located on Enterprise Boulevard. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. Upon a motion by Mr. Pharo and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

<u>BOARD/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION</u>	<u>APPLICANT/CURRENT MEMBER</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>
Greene Lamp Advisory Board	Maxine Cooper	October 2017

CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Ms. Graham and a second by Ms. Sutton, and unanimous approval, closed session was entered at approximately 4:30 p.m. and the following cited: Number five (5) To establish or instruct the public body’s staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price or other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other materials terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety; the Board moved out of closed session at approximately 5:14 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Mr. Graham stated that during closed session, there was discussion about land purchase options. There was no action taken. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Pharo, the meeting was recessed until Monday, October 22, 2012 in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room at 9 a.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Graham adjourned the meeting at 5:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Clevette F. Roberts
Interim Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager