

MINUTES
LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 16, 2006

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 16, 2006 in the Board of Commissioners Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, N.C.

Members present: Chairman George Graham; Vice-Chairman Paul Taylor and Commissioners, Jackie Brown, Claude Davis, Earl Harper, Chris Humphrey and Wayne Pittman.

Members absent: None

Also present were: Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager; Robert W. Griffin, County Attorney; and members of the general public and the news media.

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

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Dana King reported on the error that resulted in an additional Republican primary on September 12, 2006. Prior to the May election, precinct officials were trained not to ask an unaffiliated registered voter which party they wanted to vote (this came from a State Board advisory). In an email that was sent back and forth between a State Board official and another county director (with other counties being copied), the State Board official stated he had been incorrect, and that the precinct officials were to ask what party the unaffiliated voters wanted to vote. The two candidates were at the polls on the morning of the voting and were told by unaffiliated voters that they were not being asked what party they were going to vote, the candidates called in, and by 7:30a.m. all precincts had been notified that they were in fact to ask what party they wanted to vote. In the September 12th election, there was an error in the testing votes not being cleared from the machines prior to the election. This and a couple of more errors were corrected. Dana stated that she is trying hard to keep the budget down because of the increased cost of an additional primary. It was asked if anyone in the Elections Department was trained to program the voting machines, and Dana stated that she has been trained and a district representative for thirteen (13) counties has also been trained and is available to assist.

Gary O'Neal from Building Inspections gave an update on the junkyards. As of July 1, 2006, there are four (4) registered auto junkyards and two (2) registered auto graveyards. Since these were pre-existing (existed prior to the ordinance dated June 3, 2002) they have two (2) years to comply with the regulations. It was asked about the distance the junkyard could be from the highway, but that is not applicable to these since they were already in existence prior to the ordinance. The regulations are enforced as complaints are received, since there are only two in the department.

Mr. Jim Brennan and Mr. Todd Davis from Brennan Associates gave an update on the jail construction project. Thomas Hollowell suggested that a workshop may be needed at a later date to discuss all of the options. Mr. Brennan suggested the County may want to build a 200-bed facility and rent fifty-seven (57) to sixty (60) of the beds to other counties, including Federal prisoners, to generate enough revenue to cover the debt service. This would mean continuing to use the existing jail. The other suggestion of a 108-bed facility and the existing jail being used would mean a staff of 51 jailers (an increase of 15 jailers). If the 208-bed facility and old jail were used, the same staff of 51 jailers could be used. It was asked if a Federal contract could be signed? – yes, but that would mean holding those beds for them to use, even if we had prisoners here that needed the space. It was asked if the amount being paid per day was thirty dollars, but Mr. Brennan said that amount was now closer to sixty dollars. It was also asked if the Federal Marshall's office would realistically need the 57-60 beds per day – and the answer is probably since there are four surrounding counties that hold Federal court. It was asked if this jail would need to be attached to the existing facility – yes, because of the safety issue in transferring prisoners from jail to court.

Sheriff Smith and Mr. Huff addressed the issue of an inmate that had tested positive for TB. There are four people that the Health Department is tracking who have active TB and 30+ who have tested positive on their TB skin test. There were also 26 jail staff that were exposed. This positive reading on the skin test does not necessarily mean they have the disease, it means they have been exposed to the disease. Persons testing positive will be given a chest x-ray and given medication to prevent the TB infection. Mr. Huff stated that State protocol was being followed in tracking down the ones exposed and making them aware of what needs to be done. The question was asked about the possibility of it traveling through the heat and air ducts, but Mr. Huff has already contacted Ed Phillips Plumbing and Heating about that, and that does not seem to be a problem. The question was also raised about whether or not the County could be held liable – and the answer was not that he was aware of.

Mr. Huff was asked again about the flu vaccine for the coming flu season. He stated that he had received part of the County's allocation, but not all of it. However, it does not appear that getting the balance of it will be a problem.

Mark Pope gave an overview of the Economic Development incentives that are paid out by the County. Commitments that have been met are pro-rated and incentives are performance-based and are paid out based on the percentage of criteria that has been met. It was asked if these payments are all made at one time, or are they staggered? – they are staggered. From 2000 to 2006 we have had an \$224 million increase in new announced commitments resulting in 1710 new jobs and \$97 million increase in existing expansions, resulting in 981 new jobs.. If Lenoir County is to compete with other states and counties for industries, we must start earlier in training our workforce in the skills needed for competing for jobs. Ms. Brown and Mr. Pope both gave examples of programs that are now being used to equip students with skills for obtaining and retaining new jobs. Mr. Pope also stated that Smithfield will be holding its grand opening on November 2, 2006.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: October 2, 2006 Aytch/Jarman
2. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Trust and Agency: Extension-Family Caregiver/Smart Start: \$1,776: Decrease Jarman/Hollowell
3. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General: Social Services: \$13,189: Increase Jones/Hollowell
4. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: \$500 : Increase Huff/Hollowell
5. Budget Ordinance Amendment: Capital Improvements: Library Expansion: \$393,885: Increase Jarman/Hollowell

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

Item No.6 was a Resolution selecting a CDBG Project Administrator for the 2006 Concentrated Needs Grant #06-C-1515. RFP's were sent out to area firms and after receiving the bids, a scoring system was used based on several different criteria. Bids were received from RSM Harris Associates and The Adams Company. Based on this scoring system, RSM Harris Associates was chosen as the CDBG Project Administrator. A motion by Jackie Brown and a second by Claude Davis was made to approve the resolution. The resolution passed by common consent.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution selecting a CDBG Project Engineer for the 2006 Concentrated Needs Grant #06-C-1515. RFP;s were sent out to area firms and after receiving the bids, a scoring system was used based on several different criteria. Bids were received from McDavid Associates, The Adams Company and Green Engineering. Based on this scoring system, McDavid Associates was chosen as the CDBG Project Engineer. This resolution also gives the County Manager the authority to enter into negotiations with McDavid Associates and to execute an engineering contract based on a lump-sum fee based upon a defined scope of services and the desired level of service. A motion by Jackie Brown and a second by Wayne Pittman was made to approve the resolution. The resolution passed by common consent.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution approving the acceptance of a proposal for advertisement by Immediate Dental Care on the Lenoir County Transit Vehicles and the execution of a contract. The approval of this resolution will generate \$5,850 in revenue in the Transit Department. A motion by Earl Harper and a second by Jackie Brown was

made to approve the resolution. The call to vote was made with the resolution passing unanimously.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution approving the FY2006-2007 Application for Supplemental Elderly and Disable Transportation Assistance Program (EDTAP) in the amount of \$18,480 and the Rural General Public (RGP) funds in the amount of \$31,296. The resolution also authorizes the Chairman of the Board , the County Manager or any staff designated to execute the required documents to obtain the necessary grant funds and that the grant funds are allocated as follows:

EDTAP	\$18,480	Department of Social Services	50%	\$9,240
		Council on Aging	50%	\$9,240
RGP	\$31,296	Lenoir County Transportation		\$31,296

A motion by Jackie Brown, and a second by Claude Davis was made to approve the resolution. The resolution passed by common consent.

PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTION

Item No. 10 A Public Hearing was held to receive input regarding the proposed Community Transportation Application. There were no comments or questions regarding the public hearing. A Resolution approving the Community Transportation Program Grant Application for FY 2007-2008 in the amount of \$143,652 Administrative funds and the amount of \$33,291 in Capital funds was then introduced. This grant provides funds to cover 100% of the current salaries of the current two employees of that department. The 15% match on administrative costs and 10% match on capital costs will be made through transit revenues before asking for any local revenues. A motion by Jackie Brown and a second by Claude Davis was made to approve the resolution. The call to vote was given, with the resolution passing by a unanimous vote.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

Item No. 11 was a Resolution authorizing the MIS Director to execute a 3-year agreement with Authentium in the amount of \$3,201 for Enterprise CAV Multiplatform Virus software off of State Contract. The County was piggy-backing off the State's contract, but since the state's contract has ended, the County has had to find its own virus software. We are able to obtain a three-year contract at the cost of a two-year contract, and the change over will be minimal since we were already dealing with them. A motion by Jackie Brown and second by Claude Davis was made to approve the resolution. The motion passed by common consent.

Item No. 12 was a Resoluion authorizing the Landfill Director to have the motor rebuilt in its 1994 Ford 3430 Farm Tractor. This tractor is used at both the landfill and the recycling sites to mow and grade. It's front-end loader is also used for lifting heavy items. Three estimates were obtained, with Joyner's Equipment Repair of Kinston being the lowest bidder. A motion by Paul Taylor and a second by Earl Harper was made to approve the resolution. The call to vote was given, with the resolution passing by a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTION

Item No. 13 was a Public Hearing held to receive input regarding the Work First Block Grant Plan. The Work First Block Grant Plan for 2007-2009 with its recommended changes will enable Lenoir County's Work First Program to comply with the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Lenoir County is an electing county which allows it to write its own plan and adopt its own rules, thereby reducing the County's maintenance and saving money. Questions were asked about the number of people served – the answer was around 800 people, less than 300 cases with 2/3 of those being child cases. Also the question was asked if the candidate was required to do a drug test, would the program pay for it – the answer was yes. Another question was asked about the successfulness of the program, if there were any success stories – the answer was yes, with two of the people working on the plan being former recipients. Also addressed were the skills for obtaining a job, parenting skills and the skills necessary to retain a job once they are hired. A Resolution to Adopt the Work First Block Grant Plan was then introduced. A motion by Jackie Brown and a second by Claude Davis was made to adopt the plan. The resolution was approved by common consent.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

Item No. 14 was a Resolution approving Recommended Modifications to the current Lenoir County Work First Block Grant Plan for FY 2005-2007. A motion by Jackie Brown and a Second by Claude Davis was made to adopt the resolution. The resolution was approved by common consent.

Item No. 15 was a Resolution authorizing the Sheriff to apply for a Gang Intervention/Prevention Grant. With the rise of gang related activity in eastern North Carolina, the State is now offering 1.5 million dollars in grant funds to 13 counties, with no grant exceeding \$100,000. If Lenoir County is awarded the \$100,000 grant, a 25% match from the County would be required. The Sheriff's Department anticipates using the sale of forfeiture assets to obtain the 25% match. A motion by Earl Harper and a second by Jackie Brown was made to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted by common consent.

Item No. 16 was a Resolution approving 5 cameras for the jail at a cost of \$5,300 from Down East Protection Systems. At the present time there are tamper proof cameras in the back of each cellblock allowing a 95% view of each cellblock. However, four man cells located in the very back of each cellblock are behind the cameras and some of the much older cameras yield a poor quality picture. In the past Down East Protection Systems has installed cameras in the jail and throughout the Courthouse. These cameras will be purchased with asset forfeiture funds. A motion by Chris Humphrey and a second by Wayne Pittman was made to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted by common consent.

Item s No. 17 was a Resolution Approving the Sale of a Surplus Vehicle by Public Auction. This vehicle was previously used by the Tax Department, and has been

replaced with a better vehicle from the Sheriff's Department. There are no future plans to use the vehicle. A motion by Earl Harper and a second by Jackie Brown was made to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted by common consent.

Item No. 18 was a Resolution Authorizing the Repair of Damaged Plaster in the Ceiling of the Superior Courtroom by Brinson Home Repair in the amount of \$3,200. It has been discovered that a plumbing leak from the upstairs jail has saturated the ceiling in the Superior Courtroom causing it to collapse. A motion by Earl Harper and a second by Jackie Brown was made to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted by common consent.

Item No. 19 was a Resolution approving the payment of funds to NCDOT in the amount of \$50,000 for the extension of Parrott Dickerson Road. In October of 2005, the Commissioners committed \$50,000 to the extension of the Parrott Dickerson Road in the Hwy 70 Industrial Park. This action was taken as an Economic Development incentive for Electrolux Home Products, Inc., and to make the area more readily available for development. A motion was made by Earl Harper and a second by Jackie Brown to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted by common consent.

Item No. 21 was a Resolution Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of a 806-869 Mhz Omni Antenna to be installed on the Tower located on Central Avenue in the amount of \$5,529.80. Different areas of the County have experienced difficulty in radio coverage, and several things have been done to rectify the problem. It is hoped that the installation of the new antenna will help to solve the problem. It was asked if this would solve the problem entirely – the answer being no, that there will still be some issues with interference. It was also asked where the money would come from – the answer was current Communication Telephone expense funds would be used, and everything would be done to hold those expenditures and hopefully not exceed the budgeted amount. The motion was made by Jackie Brown and a second by Claude Davis to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted by common consent.

APPOINTEMENTS

There were no appointments to boards or commissions.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER/COMMISSIONERS/COUNTY ATTORNEY

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Graham asked that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by

Martha Martin
Grant Coordinator

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager