

**MINUTES**

**LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**October 21, 2013**

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4 p.m. on Monday, October 21, 2013, in the Board of Commissioner Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members present: 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, Thomas L. Hollowell, Assistant County Manager, Martha Martin, Finance Officer, Robert Griffin, County Attorney, members of the general public and news media.

Vice-Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at approximately 4 p.m. Ms. Sutton offered the Invocation and Mr. Hill led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Ms. Sutton, Chairman Davis' absence was excused.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION:**

Susan Moore, DSS Director addressed the group and said she was there to deliver a much different message than she did at the last meeting. She said DSS could now access all of its federal funds. Ms. Moore also said prior to the federal government signing its Continuing Resolution she was 2 days from stopping all food stamp benefits, which would have affected approximately 40% of Lenoir County's residents, and 16 DSS employees. Ms. Moore further stated all emergency services had been suspended, and she had anticipated terminating child daycare services effective today. She said this was a good deal for the County and she was hopeful this situation would not happen again. Ms. Moore did say she was able to weather this storm without furloughing staff – she was able to shift staff to other areas of need.

**ITEMS FROM CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONERS:**

Mr. Best told the group he had attended the Transportation meeting, held in the Administration Building the prior week, and learned a lot about the workings of that committee.

Mr. Daughety said the Hwy. 70 Corridor Commission met last week, and each county will have one new appointee. He said he was recommending Gordon Vermillion because of his expertise in this area, but would present it at the next meeting as the 1<sup>st</sup> appearance on "Appointments".

Ms. Brown stated she attend the NCACC Steering Committee meeting last week as well. She said they were told education is going to change drastically in the next few years, with more emphasis being placed on career and technical aspects of education. She also said the steering committee is working to get more of the lottery money given back to the schools, as was originally intended. Ms. Brown challenged everyone to contact their representative and express their desire for this to happen.

Ms. Brown asked Mr. Daughety to expound on his position on the Lenoir County Child Obesity Task Force. Mr. Daughety stated this is strictly a volunteer group, who came together to address their concerns regarding childhood obesity. He said their goal was to meet with various staff at all of the schools, to see in what capacity they could help the schools. Mr. Daughety further stated the group had assisted with raising funds for different projects, such as the walking track at Contentnea/Savannah. He said this group is looking at Pink Hill Elementary, which was built with no organized ball fields. The group has worked with Bill Ellis, Parks and Recreation Director, to obtain funding to build the ball fields. Mr. Daughety stated they have obtained Kate B. Reynolds grant funding and have applied for Community Transformation grant funding as well. He said they look for funding to fill in the gap, since the Board of Education doesn't have the funding for these projects.

Mr. Daughety also said the group is looking at the possibility of having locally grown fruits and vegetable prepared for the students' lunch. He said this group has representatives from a broad based group and has just added two more people, who are from the health care field. Ms. Sutton asked how this would be incorporated into the lunch menus, since federal dollars are involved in the food program. Ms. Brown asked if there were exercise programs that could be initiated to go along with a healthier diet. Mr. Daughety said Beaufort County is currently partnering with USDA and surrounding counties in a program that flash freezes locally grown produce. There is a warehouse where the produce is stored, and then supplies schools in four surrounding counties. Mr. Daughety stated this was a trial study, and he had already spoken with a commissioner from Wayne County to see if they would be willing to participate in a similar program.

Ms. Brown said it bothered her to see so many elementary school children overweight. She said she looked at the school menus each week, and they were the same every week. Ms. Brown also said breakfast is now provided to all children, but these breakfast foods are high in calories. Ms. Sutton said providing healthy foods was not only more expensive, but the preparation was more time consuming. Mr. Daughety said a lot of children are only getting meals that are provided by the school, and they needed to be healthier foods.

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

1. Letter: September 27, 2013: Ms. Agnes Ho, Director of Libraries
2. Lenoir County Financial Performance Summary: 2013-14: September 30, 2013
3. Monthly Status Report: 2011 CDBG NC Catalyst Project  
2012 CDBG Scattered Site Housing Assistance Project

Mr. Jarman stated he had included a letter from Ms. Ho regarding the need for repaving the library's parking lot. He also related Ms. Ho had said the library would be willing to share in the cost, as well as the City of Kinston. Mr. Jarman said he recommended considering this request at a future budget workshop, but wanted to make the commissioners aware of the request.

Mr. Jarman also said he had discussed with Sheriff Hill, the "Code Red" program that was presented at the last commissioners' meeting. He said Sheriff Hill had been in contact with the program provider, and anyone who so desired, could opt out of the system.

Mr. Jarman then asked the commissioners if they still wanted to provide the Christmas luncheon for the employees. He stated the funds were available and budgeted in the current year budget, but did not want to proceed with plans without the Board's approval. Ms. Sutton said she would like to see the commissioners do this, and Ms. Brown said she thought most of the employees looked forward to it. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Hill, the commissioners unanimously agreed to provide the Christmas luncheon for employees.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting, October 7, 2013.
4. Item No. 4 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: DSS: \$1,327: Decrease:

Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, the consent agenda was unanimously approved

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

Item No. 5 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: State Controlled Substance Fund: Sheriff-Controlled Substance.: \$4,000: Increase: Ms. Martin stated this Budget Amendment is to appropriate funds from the State Controlled Substance Funds' Fund balance to assist in the purchase of a canine approved at the 10/07/13 Commissioners' Meeting-Item #14. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Federally Seized Property Fund: Sheriff-Federally Seized Property : \$17,200: Increase: Ms. Martin stated this Budget Amendment is to appropriate funds from the Federally Seized Property Funds' Fund balance to assist in the purchase of radios, "Code Red" services and a canine approved at the 10/07/13 Commissioners' Meeting-Items #11, #12 & #14. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution Requesting the Establishment of Fees for Rabies Vaccinations. Mr. Huff stated the Board is requested to establish a fee of \$8.00 for rabies vaccinations at county sponsored Rabies Vaccination Clinics for FY 13-14. He also said the clinics were being held tomorrow, October 22, at different clinics throughout the county. He said this action is necessary to comply with applicable laws. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No.7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8 was a Resolution Approving the Revised FY 13-14 Lenoir County Home and Community Care Block Grant Funding Plan. Ms. Moore stated the Board is requested to approve the revised FY 2013-2014 Lenoir County Home and Community Block Grant funding plan in the amount of \$543,537. She stated Home and Community Care Block Grant funds provide essential services such as meals, in-home aide care, operation of local senior centers, adult day care services and transportation to the elderly population of Lenoir County. HCCBG funds are 90% Federal and State funds and require a 10% County match. The revised Home and Community Care Block Grant funding for FY 2013-2014 represents a \$4,556 increase over original estimates. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 8 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: DSS: \$25,596: Decrease: Ms. Moore stated the HCCBG line item adjustments are to correct the budget to reflect actual funds allocated for FY 13-14. The actual allocation received is less than the estimates approved in the FY 13-14 DSS budget. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Ms. Brown asked if Item No. 11 could be addressed prior to the Public Hearing which is scheduled to take place at 5:00 p.m. or thereafter. Mr. Harper stated he saw no reason Item No. 11 could not be presented at this time.

Item No. 11 was a Resolution Authorizing Persons to Execute Required Documents for the Community Transportation Grant: FY 2014-2015. Mr. Harper stated the action requested is to authorize the Lenoir County Transportation Advisory Board, the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, County Manager, or staff so designated, to execute required grant documents on behalf of the County, if the Community Transportation Program Grant for FY 2014-2015 is awarded to Lenoir County. Mr. Harper further stated these funds are primarily used for vehicle replacement and administrative staff costs.

Mr. Daughety asked Mr. Harper if he was aware DOT will no longer specify funds in their budget for Transit. Mr. Harper stated he had attended a meeting in Raleigh about a month ago, and they were informed the process for obtaining funds will be on a more competitive basis. Mr. Harper also said his department would have to better manage the data for the services they currently provide, since they will have to be ranked along with major highway projects to contend for funding. Mr. Harper said while currently working in three years of budget, they will also have to come up with a five year plan, although public transportation currently makes up only 2% of the NCDOT budget. Mr. Daughety said with the State's new funding formula, maintenance dollars will be greatly reduced, and minor transportation issues will have to compete with highway projects, not just other transit projects for funding. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Upon a motion by Mr. Hill and a second by Mr. Daughety, the meeting was recessed at 4:42 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. for the Public Hearing.

Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Ms. Sutton, the meeting reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTION:**

Upon a motion by Mr. Rouse and a second by Ms. Sutton, the public hearing was declared open at 5:01 p.m.

Item No. 10 was a Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed Lenoir County Community Transportation Program Application. Mr. Harper stated the public hearing had been posted in the paper and he had not received any comments from the public. He stated he had forms available if anyone wanted to comment. Vice-Chairman Brown asked if anyone in the audience would like to comment. After no response from the audience, Mr. Rouse made a motion to close the public hearing and Mr. Daughety seconded the motion. The public hearing closed at 5:02 p.m.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc.

<u>BOARD/COMMITTEE COMMISSION</u>	<u>APPLICANT/CURRENT MEMBER</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRATION</u>

There were no Board appointments.

With no further discussion Ms. Brown adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha H. Martin

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Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By,

Michael W. Jarman

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County Manager