

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 5, 2012

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 5, 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, 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 9:08 a.m. Ms. Brown offered the invocation and Mr. Graham led the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Jane Phillips, President of the Historical Preservation Group, addressed the Board about Kinston's 250th Anniversary. Ms. Phillips stated Kinston's 250th Anniversary Celebration was held November 2-5, 2012. Ms. Phillips stated Dr. W. Keats Sparrow was inducted posthumously into the Historical Preservation Hall of Heroes, for his outstanding contributions to the preservation of history through the years. Ms. Phillips stated the Old Dobbs County Tartan Project was the last project Dr. W. Keats Sparrow worked on in conjunction with the Lenoir County Colonial Commission. Ms. Phillips stated the Lenoir County Colonial Commission is under the auspices of the Historical Preservation Group. Ms. Phillips stated Lenoir County was once a part of the Old Dobbs County Tartan Project. The tartan represents the Scottish-Irish Heritage of the earlier settlers in Lenoir County. Ms. Jo Ann Huettl, Treasurer of the Historical Preservation Group, stated it was an honor and a privilege to present to the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners, the Tartan for the County of Dobbs which is now called Lenoir County. Ms. Huettl stated the tartan is derived from the Ulster Tartan of the Royal Governor Arthur Dobbs. The tartan has both Scottish and Irish associations based on the names of earlier settlers of Dobbs County. These names include; the Gordon family, Kilpatrick's, McClain's, McLewan's, Skeen's and the Heritage family. Ms. Huettl stated the tartan was designed to help Kinston and Lenoir County understand and regain their 18th Century Heritage. The Scottish Tartan was created in Franklin, North Carolina, however, the tartan originated in Scotland. Ms. Phillips stated on Sunday, November 4, 2012, Dr. Lonnie Blizzard was inducted into the Historical Preservation Hall of Heroes during a ceremony conducted at the Kinston Battlefield War Site, for his outstanding contributions to preservation of the Lenoir County Civil War Battlefield.

Mr. Pharo commended the Historical Preservation Group on a job well done. Ms. Brown commended Georgia K. Battle Friendship Club and Fairfield Senior Club on a job well done on Kinston's 250th Birthday Cake. Mr. Graham discussed Kinston's growth and how 250 years ago the streets were unpaved, there were fields of cotton or tobacco and there were no telephones or televisions. Mr. Graham stated Kinston has come a long way and there is a lot to be thankful for.

Sheriff Billy Smith stated they are getting closer to opening the new jail. Mr. Smith stated they are using Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds. Mr. Smith stated the Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds are equitably shared funds that shall be used by law enforcement agencies for law enforcement purposes only. Mr. Smith stated the funds are subject to laws, rules, regulations, and orders of the state or local jurisdiction governing the use of public funds available for law enforcement purposes. Mr. Smith stated that most of the Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds have been utilized. Mr. Rouse inquired what was the current balance of Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds? Mr. Smith stated the beginning balance was about \$170,000 and most of that amount has been utilized. Mr. Graham commended the Sheriff's Department for their professionalism and dedicated service to the citizens of Lenoir County.

Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, addressed the Board about the NC Department of Commerce Newsletter. Mr. Pope stated on October 18, 2012, Area Development Magazine released its Fall 2012 Top States for Business Survey results based on responses from location consultants who work with national client bases. Each consultant was asked to list their top five choices in 14 areas of site selection. Overall, North Carolina ranked 5th, rising from 7th in last year's study. In the critical component of overall labor climate, North Carolina ranked 2nd in a tie with neighboring South Carolina. Among the 14 selection factors for which feedback was solicited, North Carolina ranked in the top five states in 10 factors. In addition to the labor climate factor, North Carolina also ranked 2nd for certified sites and shovel-ready programs and 3rd in leading the economic recovery. The State also ranked 3rd for availability of skilled labor. Mr. Pope informed the Board about the complete list of the top-five site selection factors for North Carolina. Mr. Pope stated the State of North Carolina ranked 2nd for overall labor climate and certified sites or shovel-ready programs (tied with South Carolina). The State of North Carolina ranked 3rd for availability of skilled labor (tied with California) and 3rd for access to capital and funding and leading the economic recovery (tied with Indiana). Mr. Pope stated the State ranked 4th leading workforce development programs (tied with Alabama) and competitive utility rates (tied with Oregon). The State ranked 5th for the cost of doing business (tied with Indiana & Mississippi), and 5th for competitive labor costs (tied with Indiana & Mississippi). Mr. Pope stated the State of North Carolina ranked 5th for overall business environment (tied with Indiana & Mississippi). Mr. Pope stated on November 1, 2012, Governor Bev Perdue announced that North Carolina ranked as the nation's "Top Business Climate," according to Site Selection Magazine. It is the 10th time in the last 12 years the state has taken the top honor in the annual ranking by Site Selection, one of the nation's premier economic development magazines. Mr. Pope stated Lynn Minges, Assistant Secretary of Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding in the North Carolina Department of Commerce, was honored as Career Woman of the Year from the Business and Professional Women in Raleigh, North Carolina. Mr. Pope stated Lynn Minges has stepped down from her position as the Assistant Secretary of Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding in the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

Mr. Pope stated Lynn Minges has accepted another position as President & Chief Executive Officer of North Carolina's Restaurant & Lodging Association. Mr. Pope expressed his concerns about the missing student in Germany and stated his thoughts and prayers are with her parents. Mr. Davis inquired about the opening date of Veteran's Nursing Home? Mr. Pope stated that the Veteran's Nursing Home employment opportunities are available online at www.uhs-pruitt.com, however, an opening date has not been set.

Mr. Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager, stated the jail construction is moving forward. Mr. Hollowell stated several of the primes have received their final inspections. Mr. Hollowell stated on Friday, November 2, 2012, the Construction Manager met with the Fire Marshall regarding the primes involved with the fire alarm system. Mr. Hollowell stated the fire alarm system is scheduled to be tested on Thursday, November 8, 2012. Mr. Hollowell stated once the tests are completed and if the fire alarm system passes, the sheriff may begin moving furniture and their employees into offices within the jail. Mr. Hollowell stated the jail may receive a temporary Certificate of Occupancy, however, they cannot move prisoners in the jail. They may begin utilizing the kitchen as practice by preparing meals for prisoners in the old jail. Mr. Rouse inquired about the projected completion date of the jail? Mr. Hollowell stated once the jail receives the temporary Certificate of Occupancy, the State will be contacted to inspect the jail and once the inspection is approved a date will be set to open the jail.

ITEMS FROM THE CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONERS

Ms. Sutton stated she was asked to serve on the Patient & County Advisory Council for Lenoir Memorial Hospital. Ms. Sutton stated the Patient & County Advisory Council is working together to better serve the citizens of Lenoir County from a health aspect. Ms. Sutton stated Lenoir Memorial Hospital is working collaboratively with Vidant Medical Center to provide cardiac stenting, cardiac intervention, and transport procedures. The Patient & County Advisory Council is currently marketing a campaign to introduce the new services Lenoir Memorial Hospital will be providing. Ms. Sutton stated Lenoir Memorial Hospital will have an open house for their new Sleep Lab on December 4, 2012. Ms. Sutton stated Joe Clay Jones is the Chairman of the Patient & County Advisory Council. Ms. Sutton stated Deidra Houston is the Emergency Department's Patient Representative for Lenoir Memorial Hospital. Ms. Sutton stated 15% of the Lenoir Memorial Hospital's staff has been employed for nearly 25-40 years. Ms. Sutton stated Scotty Hill who retired from the Kinston Police Department, is now the Chief of Safety & Security at Lenoir Memorial Hospital. Mr. Pharo stated Lenoir Memorial Hospital works diligently and constantly to improve the quality of their services. Mr. Davis commended Mr. Pharo for his dedication and service on Lenoir Memorial Hospital Advisory Board.

Mr. Daughety inquired about the Christmas Party for the Board? Mr. Graham suggested the Board attend Ribeye's or Jeffrey' Restaurant for the Christmas Party. Mr. Jarman stated the Board of Commissioners Christmas Party is usually held on the 3rd Monday in December. Mr. Jarman asked the Board to contact Clevette Roberts, once a decision has been made regarding the location and date of the party and she will make the arrangements. Mr. Jarman stated the County Commissioners Employee Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Friday, December 14, 2012 at King's Restaurant.

Mr. Pharo stated it has been an honor to serve as a Board of Commissioner.

Mr. Daughety encouraged all citizens to vote.

ITEMS FROM THE COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Jarman addressed the Board about the bid on property at 516 Cotton Lane, Kinston, NC, for \$500. Mr. Jarman stated there was a previous bid on the property, however, the bidder was not able to secure funding for the property. Mr. Jarman asked the Board to decline the bid, in an effort to receive a better offer. Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Brown, the bid of \$500 was declined with unanimous approval.

Mr., Jarman stated it was discussed in closed session about whether or not to bid on the property located at 103 McLewan Street, Kinston, NC. Mr. Jarman stated the property was sold on Monday, October 29, 2012 at the Courthouse. Mr. Jarman stated there were no other bidders other than Lenoir County. The minimum bid was \$33,225. The County was the low bidder with the amount of \$33,225 to purchase the property. Mr. Jarman stated it may be 180 days before the County receives a clear title or deed to the property, unless the current property owner (prior to the sale) is willing to sign a quitclaim deed. Ms. Sutton inquired if the funds used were budgeted to acquire land? Mr. Jarman stated \$180,000 is budgeted in County savings designated for the purpose of purchasing property near the Courthouse. Mr. Bob Griffin, County Attorney, stated it was mentioned in closed session that there are a couple of liens on the property that will come ahead of the IRS, which the County may or may not have to pay. Mr. Griffin stated at this time, the only obligation would be the bid amount of \$33,225. Mr. Griffin stated the liens on the property are approximately \$40,000. Mr. Griffin stated the obligation for the property may be a total of \$80,000 or it may remain the bid amount of \$33,225. Mr. Graham said he believes the property will be a great asset to the County. Mr. Jarman stated the new jail facility has intake, booking, laundry and kitchen that serve up to 500 inmates. The new jail facility contains 192 beds and the current jail has a capacity of 121. Mr. Jarman stated the property is located where dormitory beds could be constructed if needed.

CONSENT AGENDA: 10Min.

ACTION

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: October 15, 2012 Roberts/ Jarman. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 3 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 4 was a Resolution Approving the Releases and Refunds to the Individuals Listed Herein. The releases and refunds result from listing and assessing due to incorrect and incomplete information. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 5 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Finance/Sheriff Department: \$1,310: Increase. The budget amendment was to budget insurance proceeds received from Argonaut Great Central Insurance Company on October 31, 2012 in the amount of \$1,309.33 for an accident that occurred on October 19, 2012. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

BUDGET ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS

Item No. 6 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Emergency Services: \$3,385: Increase. Mr. Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager, stated the budget amendment was to budget insurance proceeds received from VFIS Insurance Company on October 16, 2012 in the amount of \$3,384.46. This is to cover cost of repairs to the 2008 Ford Expedition that was struck by a deer on October 6, 2012. Upon a motion by Mr. Davis and a second Ms. Sutton, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: DSS: \$16,644: Increase. Ms. Susan Moore, Department of Social Services Director stated the budget amendment was to cover the increased allocation received this year. Ms. Moore stated funds are 100% Federal and are at no cost to the County. Ms. Moore stated this program will aid the elderly in meeting their heating costs. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8A was a 2011 Community Development Block Grant Project: Budget Ordinance: \$530,000: Increase. Mr. David Harris of RSM Harris Associates, stated the project authorized is the Community Development Project described in the work statement contained in the 2011 CDBG NC Catalyst Application between the County of Lenoir and the Division of Community Assistance. This project is also referred as the Spring Drive Housing and Community Development Project. Mr. Harris stated the officers of the County of Lenoir are hereby directed to proceed with the grant project within the terms of the grant documents, the rules and regulations of the Division of Community Assistance and the budget contained herein. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 8A was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8B was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Community Development Block Grant Fund: 2011 CDBG Catalyst Grant#11-C-2375: \$555,000: Increase. Mr. Harris stated budget amendment was to set up and appropriate funds for the 2011 Community Development Block Grant-Catalyst Project that was awarded to the County on October 12, 2012. Mr. Harris stated the Board approved the local match of \$25,000 on April 16, 2012 per Item No. 6A. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 8B was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8C was a Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Lenoir Authorizing Execution of CDBG Documents. Mr. Harris stated the County of Lenoir has the need for neighborhood revitalization improvements within many areas of the County. Mr. Harris stated the County of Lenoir has applied for funding from the State of North Carolina under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. Mr. Harris stated the County of Lenoir expects to receive a \$500,000 grant under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program: NC Catalyst Grant Category. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 8C was unanimously approved.

Item No. 8D was a Resolution Financial Management Community Development Block Grant: Catalyst Grant.

Mr. Harris stated the County of Lenoir expects to receive a 2011 Community Development Block Grant: NC Catalyst Category in the amount of \$500,000. Mr. Harris stated the North Carolina Administrative Code Resolution (4 NCAC 19L) requires that the County of Lenoir designate a Grant Finance Officer, authorized individuals to execute grant requisitions, and a Depository for CDBG revenues. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 8D was unanimously approved.

Item No. 9 was a Resolution Approving Purchase of Window Tinting for the Jail: \$3,777.25. Mr. Chris Hill, Chief Deputy, stated the new jail is almost complete. Mr. Hill stated the new jail has two control towers that currently have non-tinted glass, allowing inmates to see the movement of personnel within the control rooms. In addition, inmates have the ability to see from one cellblock area (pod) to another. Inmates should not be able to view the movements of officers within the tower or detect if an officer is watching the movements of inmates within the pod areas. In an effort to resolve this issue, the windows within the control room on each floor must be tinted with a reflective film. This particular work was not within the scope of work of the jail project. Upon a motion by Mr. Pharo and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 9 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 10 was a Resolution Approving Purchase of Training for K9 Handler: \$4,000. Mr. Hill stated the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office currently utilizes several canines to carry out law enforcement functions such as narcotics detection, evidence retrieval, and officer protection. Mr. Hill stated the animals have been an invaluable tool and have served the Sheriff's Office for many years. Recently, a canine handler was injured while working his dog following a chase. The handler is not physically able to perform those specific duties at this time. This forced the Sheriff to find a new handler to work the canine and to have the handler trained with the dog. Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 10 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 11 was a Resolution Approving Purchase of Furniture for the Jail: \$20,171.87. Mr. Hill stated as part of the jail project the jail needs to have office furniture such as desks, chairs, and filing cabinets. The county allocated \$10,000 for office furniture for the new jail. Mr. Rouse inquired about the dollar amount requested to purchase the furniture for the jail and if the requested amount is within the formal bid threshold? Mr. Jarman stated the dollar amount is below the threshold and the amount of the threshold is \$90,000. Upon a motion by Pharo and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 11 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 12 was a Resolution Approving Purchase of a LiveScan Fingerprint Machine: \$32,839. Mr. Hill stated the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office currently utilizes a LiveScan Fingerprint Machine which is located in the Detective Division. Mr. Hill stated the current fingerprint machine is used to fingerprint persons charged with criminal offenses as well as citizens who request to be fingerprinted for various occupations that require fingerprints. Mr. Hill stated the current fingerprint machine must move to the fingerprint room within the processing area of the new jail, a new machine must be purchased. The new machine will be used to fingerprint citizens, who are required to be fingerprinted as a part of their job requirements.

This keeps the Sheriff's staff and citizens from walking back and forth from the Sheriff's Office to the new jail to perform these services. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Ms. Brown, Item No. 12 was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS

Item No. 13 was a Resolution Approving Citizens to Boards, Commissions, Etc. There were no appointments at this time.

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

Mr. Graham adjourned the meeting at 9:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Clevette F. Roberts
Interim Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager