

MINUTES

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 17, 2014

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners met in open session at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2014, in the Board of Commissioners' Main Meeting Room in the Lenoir County Courthouse at 130 S. Queen St., Kinston, NC.

Members present: Chairman Craig Hill, Vice-Chairman Jackie Brown and Commissioners, Roland Best, Mac Daughety, Eric Rouse, and Linda Sutton.

Members Absent: Reuben Davis

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager, Martha Martin, Finance Officer, Vickie F. King, Clerk to the Board, Bob Griffin, County Attorney, members of the general public and news media.

Chairman Hill called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m. Ms. Brown offered the Invocation and Ms. Sutton led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton to excuse Commissioner Reuben Davis from the meeting.

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Mr. John Nix, co-owner of Matrix East Surveyors, addressed the Board. I have taken the liberty of looking at surrounding counties and the frequency of times that County Commissioners met. Some of the information came from websites and some from telephone calls. When you look at the sheet I have passed around, every county has at least one evening meeting. Lenoir County is the only county that does not have an evening time. The only reason I am coming to the Board is to address accessibility issues. I think one reason the County does not have public participation is because of the meeting times. Just keep in mind, the meetings need to be accessible to the public. I know you are considering meeting times as you look at the calendar for the New Year, and in doing so, I think this is important information for the Board to have.

Mr. Hill stated, I appreciate the information and we do have some neighboring counties that meet during the day, such as Wayne County. They meet at 9:00 am on the first and third Tuesday. This doesn't mean we won't make changes. This is just to clarify what you said regarding surrounding counties.

Mr. Nix stated, Jones, Carteret, Craven, Pitt, and Greene all have evening meetings.

Mr. Hill stated, that's ok, I am just letting you know the Board has been doing the same work and again we are working on it.

Susan Moore, DSS Director, thanked the Board for allowing her time to speak this afternoon. I came to respond to concerns the Board had over comments that Mr. Mark Pope made at the last meeting regarding surveys from manufacturing employers. Employers are saying people were turning down raises, and they didn't want promotions because they were going to lose their benefits. I asked Mr. Pope to tell me more about what type of benefits the people were worried about losing? It was primarily that they were worried about their child support increasing. Child support is not a public service, it is court ordered. Our agency, and the Federal and State government, expect those parents to support their children to the best of their financial ability. If people are truly worried that getting a small raise or a small promotion would cause their child support to go up, they are laboring under a misapprehension. Child support orders are only reviewed once every three years, and they are only changed if there has been a substantial change in income, or the child's needs. Child support defines substantial as a 15% increase or 15% decrease, so a small raise or promotion is not going to make anyone's child support go up or down. My word to employers is if you have people turning down raises or promotions because they tell them they don't want their child support to go up, please write me and tell me about it, because the judges would be very interested to hear that. The judge will see that people pay to the best of their ability, and the court does not look favorably on people who are avoiding or trying to avoid supporting their children. So child support is not an issue for DSS, because I am in favor of them paying what they need to pay. We take 300-400 cases a month to court because they are not paying their support, and if we have folks that have income available to them and they are turning increases down, we need to know about it, so we can make the information available to the court. Another thing they are worried about is Day Care. In my research today I looked at what the projected cost would be for an infant or toddler, which is a child under 2. In Lenoir County, starting in January, all rates will go up in all of the Day Care Centers. Currently DSS receives just under \$2.2 million to help pay for child care subsidy services. We help approximately 436 children and our average payment is \$409.00. Starting in January, day care cost for an infant will be \$756.00 per month, which is a significant amount for someone to pay for child care on a low income check. I took the time to compare tuition only at ECU. It is only \$534 a month, and at least at ECU, you can get scholarships, loans and grants to help send your 18 year old to college. Only the Lenoir/Greene Partnership and DSS will help you with day care cost. If parents did not receive help, they would have to pay \$9,000.00 a year. A report from the Annie E. Casey Organization, who monitors poverty and how a child's well being is doing, states that on the average, across North Carolina, it takes \$4,889 a month for a single parent with two children to pay their basic household bills. Child care in Lenoir County is cheaper than Orange County and Chapel Hill. They are over \$1,400 a month. A lot of folks don't work because they can't afford the day care. In Lenoir County we only have 436 children receiving child care subsidies, but there are almost 8,000 children in Lenoir County who are potentially eligible, but DSS does not get enough money to cover those folks. The poverty rate in Lenoir County is at 20%, 33% higher for children, 37.8% higher for children under 5. Some of the things Sanderson Farms was complaining about are true when it comes to transportation, because Lenoir County only has one Taxi Company and he only works days Monday thru Friday. We have a lack of public transportation, so if you don't have a car, you have to depend on others to get back and forth to work. So if you have to get to a second or third shift at the

hospital, fast food establishment, or a nursing home, what is a person to do except depend on someone else.

In 1996 welfare reform was piloted in North Carolina and it became a federal law in 1997. At that time we had almost 1,800 families in Lenoir County receiving a welfare check, Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). Now we have less than 200, and 3/4 of those are grandparents or another family member raising children, because they have been removed from their homes.

Mr. Rouse asked what the DSS budget was in 1996?

Ms. Moore replied, that was before my time and I am not sure, but the Maintenance of Effort was just under \$1 million, and that's 90% of what the County was spending on Work First back then. We are still spending 90% of what we were spending back then, which is a federal law that requires us to spend that much. We mostly pay for child welfare services with that money.

Ms. Moore stated, part of welfare reform was a promise of two things: if welfare mothers would go to work, then the government would help them with day care and transportation, both of which are being cut regularly. Right now we have a waiting list. I expect the list to go down because the legislators have greatly increased the income level to qualify. In January 2015, we will start counting all the income in a household, rather than just the income of the parent or guardian. Not because the family is ineligible but the household. I see a backing away from that promise, because most of the people who have moved off of welfare, have moved into low or slightly above minimum wage jobs.

Mr. Rouse asked, what about EBT, what used to be called Food Stamps?

Ms. Moore replied, we are paying out \$1.7 million a month in food stamp benefits to 7,200 households and that's about 25% of the households in the County.

Mr. Rouse asked, if she knew the statistics of the program back then?

Ms. Moore replied, I do not have the information with me, but I would be glad to provide it to you later. It's gone up significantly, because in 2008, the State and Federal government increased the eligibility for that program. And since then, they have not backed off from it, because all of the food stamp money is Federal money, no State or County money is going out in that benefit.

Mr. Jarman said, Ms. Moore stated 25% of the families received food stamp benefits, but at the same time, you have to look at the millions of dollars being spent at our local grocery stores, doctors offices, and pharmacy's. There are a lot of people who are not receiving the benefits directly, but they are receiving the benefits from those funds coming to their facility, and that is probably closer to \$300 million circulating in our economy. That helps a lot of people.

Ms. Moore stated, a lot of people think these benefits land in the clients' pockets, but they don't. There are less than 200 families who are getting an average of \$214 a month, or about \$6,000 a year that lands in somebody else's pocket to pay rent or to buy clothes for the children. The

other populations that get a check from DSS are the folks in the rest homes, which helps pay the average cost of about \$3500 a month.

These benefits flow to a vendor, whether it be the grocery store, or Wal-Mart, Medicaid that's flowing to Caswell Center or to the dialysis center, hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics. Just think if we pulled \$354 million out of the economy in Lenoir County. Think of how many doctor offices wouldn't be open, and how many of their staffs would be unemployed, and the amount of grocery stores that could not be stocked. Also just because a person does not come to the DSS office and apply for benefits, it doesn't mean they did not touch you.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting: October 20, 2014
Regular Board Meeting: November 03, 2014
Closed Session Meeting: November 03, 2014
2. Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: (WIC Budget): \$312.00.
Decrease.

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

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS/RESOLUTIONS:

Item No. 3 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: General Fund: Health: (Environmental Health): \$4,000.00. Decrease. Martha Martin, Finance Director, stated, Mr. Huff asked me to present this item for him because he had another meeting to attend. State Aid funding was reduced for the Vector Control Program. It was eliminated in the House, Senate and Governor's Budget. Upon a motion made by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton, Item No. 3 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 4 was a Budget Ordinance Amendment: Trust & Agency Fund: Innovative Approach to Literacy (IAL): \$4,537.50. Decrease. Tammy Kelly, Cooperative Extension Director, stated, the amendment is to reverse budget amendment G-6, which was item #4 on the August 4, 2014 agenda. This money was for the IAL grant which was accepted at the January 7, 2013 Commissioners' meeting, item #25. This money came in at the close of the 2013-2014 fiscal year, and should have been included only as part of the roll forward budget amendment in FY 14-15, not as a separate budget amendment in FY 14-15. This will adjust both the revenue and expenditure budget amounts to their correct numbers. Upon a motion made by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 4 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 5 was a Resolution to approve the presentation of his badge and service weapon to retiring Sheriff Christopher C. Hill. Mr. Rouse read the Resolution presenting the badge and service weapon to Sheriff Hill.

Mr. Jarman stated, Sheriff Hill has been super to work with. He has had a lot of challenges before him, not to mention a \$21 1/2 million jail being constructed. Chris has managed to do all of this within budget, while being staffed at minimum levels. We can list numerous things he has done for us. He has understood the budget constraints that you as a Board and we as a County have faced. He has managed to improve the statistics, lower the crime rate, and keep the jail cost down by not having to send inmates to other communities. He has been a pleasure to work with.

Mr. Hill stated, as a Board, we understand that the institutional knowledge that's leaving when Chris walks out the door is something that is irreplaceable. We appreciate what Chris has done and the manner in which he was able to do it. You have a very special place in the hearts of the Commissioners' here, and in the hearts of our citizens. We really do appreciate what you've done and how you've done it.

Sheriff Hill stated, I have been here for 31 years, and I've seen many commissioners and Boards. It has been a pleasure to serve with each and every one of you. Mike, in my estimation, is the best County Manager an employee can have and with Tommy being his right hand man and with Martha and all the folks at finance, it has been rewarding, and if I had to do it all over again, I would choose this. I will not stand here and say that it's been the best every day, because there were challenges. Especially in the last 20 months there have been challenges that have really tried me, my wife, and child. It's about to come to a close and I am sure there will be other doors that will open to me. I am not the type of person that sits back and watches television. In 1983 I started here as a Dispatcher. Sheriff Leo Harper hired me and he gave me a chance. Next to come, Sheriff Smith, who gave me the ability to spread my wings and fly. I was able to move up the ranks fairly quickly. I started out as a Dispatcher and got my feet wet in the jail. Eventually Sheriff Harper saw that I would make a good patrol deputy. This is what I really wanted to do since I was going to school to be a law enforcement officer. In 1985 I got put on the road, went to BLET in Wilson, graduated, and became an officer. It wasn't long before I became an investigator, and if you talk to anybody, investigations is my game. I have always enjoyed trying to figure out that piece to the puzzle, the more challenging the better I liked it. Case and point as Mr. Rouse mentioned, with the 18 year old murder case. You remember I came to the Board about two meeting ago, and mentioned I was going to use drug dealer's money to solve this case, and I did. I did not do it by myself. I had help from Goldsboro and other agencies. So investigations have been my forte, and I enjoy it. Sheriff Smith promoted me up the ranks and I became a major. I switched from being a cop to an accountant, and that's what that job is, it is creating and managing money, writing policies, dealing with the jail, dealing with personnel, which is a challenge all by itself. Then this Board gave me the chance to replace Sheriff Smith when he retired, and I hope I have fulfilled your expectations. I have to say nothing that I've done would have been possible without my family. They have suffered with me and have seen me in moods, because the County will wear you out and wear you down.

They had to suffer through everything I had to go through and they are still with me. I appreciate everything you have done for me.

Mr. Hill thanked Sheriff Hill's family for all of their support and all they have done over the years, and will continue to do. We know you have sacrificed a lot over the years and we appreciate your support. Behind every good man, there is always more than one good woman. Our County is a better place for having Chris Hill in law enforcement for all these years. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 5 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 6 was a Resolution to approve a purchase order to Carolina Recreation and Design in the amount of \$48,000.00. Bill Ellis, Parks & Recreation Director, stated, Kinston and Lenoir County have received grants to begin construction of a Riverwalk, that will eventually connect Pearson Park, the Music Park, and the Ram Neuse Museum with a 2.5 mile long Greenway. The playground I am purchasing will be a regional attraction for the Greenway. The purpose of this project is for economic development, while also providing recreational opportunities for the citizens of Kinston and Lenoir County. The Parks & Recreation Department will begin a fund raising campaign to add lighting, rubber surfacing, and additional features to the playground. The playground will be the first concrete themed playground in eastern North Carolina. I came to the Board with the following: in 1996 with an idea to build a Nature Center and you supported us; then I came back in 2000 with an idea to build a Planetarium and you supported us and; we skipped a while and then we came back with the idea to build The Woodmen Community Center, and you supported us. I am happy to say that all three of those have worked out pretty good, thanks to a lot of great Parks and Recreation staff. They have brought a lot of folks to this town and County and I hope made a lot of money for the businesses in this community. Mac came up with the idea of starting a Riverwalk. Thanks to the work of everybody, we received the funding to do the first phase of the Riverwalk. This will go from the King Street Bridge to the old Power Plant. I believe the Riverwalk can be just as valuable as the other assets we have, and I think it can bring a ton of folks to town. We have to start with it just like we started with the Nature Center, the Planetarium and the Woodmen Center. I think this playground is something that will attract people to the Riverwalk. People won't just come to a Riverwalk unless there is something special to attract young families and young folks. I went to the National Parks and Recreation Show and I saw the most awesome thing that I have seen in my entire life. I have fallen in love with it and I truly believe it's a game changer. I was like a two year old when I saw it. I climbed up and got my picture on it. It's a concrete themed park/playground and there is nothing like it in Eastern North Carolina or anywhere else in North Carolina. It will draw people from all over eastern North Carolina, and I have no doubt that when we do it, it will be the talk of the East. It will be no different than the Water Park. It will bring a ton of folks here on pretty days, and Saturdays and Sundays. They will come with their kids and, their bicycles and they will walk.

It will consist of the Loch Neuse Dragon, Loch Neuse Dragon theme shirts, baby Loch Neuse Dragons along the river, and babys' nests along the river. It's going to be the cutest theme park in America when we are finished with it. We are going out and raise a lot of extra money to go along with it. This is the first segment of this Riverwalk and once we get that first piece in, I promise you we will raise additional money to finish the project, to make this absolute, first class. I am going out and get a team together and sell the idea to our manufacturers and our community. We are going to raise the money. This is my selling pitch for this because I truly believe this is the right thing to do and we've got money in our budget to pay for it. I am not asking for any additional money, we are going to do the work ourselves. We are going to make it absolutely something where you will take every child and every grandkid in Eastern North Carolina. I'm just asking for your support to pass the Resolution so we can get started.

Mr. Best asked, what was the \$48,000 for?

Mr. Ellis replied, this is for the first segment the Loch Neuse Dragon. We will have to raise additional money because we will need to have concrete borders around with concrete swings and rubber surfacing under it. It's not just a piece, it's an entire park, a concept, the whole thing. Lyn Turner and Tommy Pressley are really getting excited about this, and we will join with them and add other folks to this Committee, to be part of the Riverwalk. We have a Riverwalk Committee that's designing the Riverwalk. We have the money to complete the first phase from King Street Bridge to the Old Power Plant and Phase Two will catch it the rest of the way down the river to The Woodmen Center.

Mr. Best asked, what is the amount of Phase Two?

Mr. Ellis replied, approximately, right at \$1 million. There is some more DOT money to be added and Parks and Receptions Trust money. We will come up with that money.

Mr. Hill asked, where will this be located?

Mr. Ellis replied, in Pearson Park. My goal right now is to put it where you can see it from the road, because it will light up at night like Star Trek.

Mr. Hill asked, how much involved has the Riverwalk Committee been in this process?

Mr. Ellis replied, the Riverwalk Committee is doing a great job and they got the Riverwalk going. Because I was able to get this at a third of the original price if you were to order it out of the catalog. I have to move quickly.

Mr. Hill asked, has it been presented to the City at this time?

Mr. Ellis replied, it's been presented to the City Manager.

Mr. Rouse asked, will this deplete Bill's budget?

Mr. Ellis replied, it won't deplete my budget, but it will deplete my capital budget.

Mr. Rouse stated, what if we have another incident come up?

Mr. Ellis replied, I will fix it.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Daughety, Item No. 6 was unanimously approved.

Item No. 7 was a Resolution approving appointments of citizens to boards, commissions, etc. Upon a motion by Ms. Sutton and a second by Mr. Best, Item No. 7 was unanimously approved for Ms. Audrey Tyson's re-appointment to the Eastern Carolina Council Board.

CURRENT VACANCIES: Lenoir County Health Board – (1) Optometrist

Item No. 8 was items from the County Manager. Mike Jarman, County Manager, stated, all I have are the customary reports that we normally have, so unless anybody has any questions, I will save my comments until we get into closed session.

Mr. Rouse stated, Skinner's By-Pass should be completed within a week. A meeting is coming up on the 20th regarding funding. Also, Duke is giving away \$10 million, so Mr. Ellis might want to inquire.

Mr. Best asked, have the repairs to the Boat Landing been completed?

Mr. Ellis replied, they have been completed. It opened last Friday. The river here in Kinston and Lenoir County is a unique thing. The metal seawall that held the bank in to keep the erosion low came out. The river had dropped so low that if you came across there with a boat and you didn't know the seawall was there, it would have caused damage to the boat. They were able to get a gentleman with underground water equipment and an underwater chainsaw to cut it off at a lower level and make the repairs.

Ms. Sutton asked, if the date been set for the employees Christmas Luncheon?

Mr. Jarman replied, December 12th at Kings at 11:30am

Mr. Hill asked, has the date been set for the Commissioners' Dinner?

Mr. Jarman replied, December 15th at The Baron & Beef at 6:00pm

Mr. Daughety stated, congratulations are in order to the South Lenoir Lady Blue Devil Cheerleaders, who won the State Cheerleaders' competition.

Mr. Hill stated, we have had the issue brought before us on three different occasions regarding our meeting times. I do think it's something we might need to discuss, so let's put it on the agenda for our next meeting, so that it can be part of our discussion.

Because our next meeting is when we re-seat the Board, it will allow us to go into the New Year with a discussion about our meeting times. I hope we will consider all of our citizens, those that work shift work and those that work regular day jobs. Whatever we do moving forward, let's remember again to schedule a meeting with our schools, because one of the issues brought before us was a quarter cent sales tax. There were 10 quarter cents sales tax referendums put before the public and two were passed. They have a project that will be coming at us quickly, within the next two to three years, and we need to be aware of that. I am not saying what we should do, but let's be aware of what's been happening across the State, what's happening here in our local community, and what some of the requests might be. So it's important when we meet with our school board the next time, that we have some prepared questions and what the capital needs are for our system. We as a Board are really going to have to ask some difficult questions about how we can continue moving forward and making progress in the community. Let's give it a lot of thought as we move forward and prepare some information so that we can have some very crucial conversations about how we can continue to transform our community and make it a better place for our citizens.

Ms. Sutton stated, she was in a meeting recently that had leadership from the House and the Senate and all I can say is we can look to have some stuff done.

Mr. Daughety stated, the first of the "1 on 1" technology was rolled out to the students at Southwood last week. Moss Hill gets theirs this week, and Pink Hill next week.

Ms. Brown stated Contentnea/Savannah, and Northwest received theirs last week and Rochelle Middle School was the only middle school that received theirs, because they received funding from a grant they wrote themselves.

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton a closed session was entered into at approximately 4:55 p. m. with the following cited: Number Four (4) & Number (6):

(4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Lenoir County.

(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance, by or against an individual public appointment of a member of the public officer or employee. The Closed Session will not include discussion of the appointment of a member of the public body, or a vacancy on the public body, and any final action on appointment, discharge or removal by the public body will be made in open session.

Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Rouse and unanimous approval, the Board moved out of closed session at approximately 5:50 p.m. The meeting re-convened in open session at approximately 5:52 p.m.

Mr. Hill stated, we are back in open session. The Board went into closed session to discuss a potential industry in Lenoir County.

Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, stated Mr. Kenneth Talton donated a 200,000 square foot warehouse and approximately 26 acres of land to the County of Lenoir in November 2011. The property is located in the Contentnea Neck Township of Lenoir County adjacent to the Kinston DuPont property. Lenoir County Economic Development has been working with a company that desires to purchase the warehouse and property, (Project Lucille). Project Lucille is ready to move forward with an offer to purchase and contract for the purchase of the warehouse and property.

Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Mr. Best, Offer to Purchase Property/Project Lucille was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hill asked if there were any additional comments? There were none.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Brown and a second by Mr. Best, the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed By

Vickie F. King
Clerk to the Board

Michael W. Jarman
County Manager

MINUTES – CLOSED SESSION

LENOIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Upon a motion by Ms. Brown and a second by Ms. Sutton a closed session was entered into at approximately 4:55 p. m. with the following cited: Number Four (4) & Number (6):

(4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by Lenoir County.

(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance, by or against an individual public appointment of a member of the public officer or employee. The Closed Session will not include discussion of the appointment of a member of the public body, or a vacancy on the public body, and any final action on appointment, discharge or removal by the public body will be made in open session.

Members present: Chairman Craig Hill, Vice-Chairman Jackie Brown and Commissioners, Roland Best, Mac Daughety, Eric Rouse, and Linda Sutton.

Members Absent: Reuben Davis

Also present were: Michael W. Jarman, County Manager, Tommy Hollowell, Assistant County Manager, Martha Martin, Finance Officer, Vickie F. King, Clerk to the Board, Bob Griffin, County Attorney.

Sheriff Hill shared hand outs regarding the Bailey Decision Concerning Federal, State and Local Retirement Benefits. As a result of the North Carolina Supreme Court's decision in Bailey v. State of North Carolina, North Carolina may not tax certain retirement benefits received by retirees of the State of North Carolina and its local government or by the United States government retirees (including military) for each retirement plan, if the retiree has five or more years of creditable service as of August 12, 1989. I was under the impression that I was Bailey exempt, which means I would have been vested. The County failed to take retirement out of my pay for a period of one year and seven months, and as a result, the State informed me I was not Bailey vested, and I will have to pay State taxes on my retirement benefits. This error excluded me from being vested because of only having 4.4 years of contributory time by the date, August 12, 1989. Since this is a County error, I think it's only fair that the County rectify this issue. I would like to suggest the following: The County could choose to increase my separation allowance to compensate for the loss. This allowance can be paid until I turn 62 because at that point social security will kick in.

So the County can pay \$28,080 when I retire. The only other option I can think of is for the County to pay \$54,000 without being taxed, as this would negate the overall goal of making up the loss. I am asking the Board to correct this error, because the Retirement system does not care that the County omitted that time from me.

Mr. Hill asked, when was this time purchased?

Mr. Jarman replied, many of the individuals that were present during that time are no longer here to answer questions, and this is what is making this situation challenging. I will be reviewing information from Sheriff Hill's employment application, background letter, personnel records of Chris Hill, personnel records of other employees hired as dispatchers in 1983, insurance documents, information from Nola Tyndall, former Finance Director, social security information, and historical documents depicting hire date and work status. I spoke with retired Deputy Gary Kornegay. He said he thought Chris was full time, but he was not positive. I spoke with retired Deputy Ed Boyette, and he said he was not sure whether Chris was hired as full or part time, but he was full time when he was a dispatcher. So with all of the information in hand, I still cannot say yes or no, because we do not have concrete information. There are a lot of complicated factors about what has happened, so I felt it was best to share all of this with the Board.

Mr. Daughety asked, what exactly is Sheriff Hill asking?

Mr. Hill replied, for the \$54,000 to be paid for taxes. There are several things to consider. Do we have other employees that can be faced with the same issue and are we opening up a can of worms. I understand Bailey Vested, so it's like a catch 22, because Sheriff Hill received a pay check for all those months and he knew retirement was not being taken out of his pay check, so why didn't he say something at that time. I think any employee that knew retirement was not taken out should have noticed. So there are just a lot of questions at this time.

Mr. Daughety stated, if he was aware of this for a long time, why are we hearing of this in the twelfth hour?

Mr. Jarman replied, Sheriff Hill was not aware he was not Bailey Vested.

Mr. Hill stated, he assumed because he had purchased the time that he was Bailey Vested.

Mr. Rouse asked, what was Mr. Jarman's suggestion or recommendation?

Mr. Jarman replied, as a Manager, I've struggled with this and I've looked for definite answers and I just could not find one. There were many questions, which is the reason I felt the Board should be involved. In this situation, there is give and take on the part of the employee and the employer.

Mr. Rouse asked, back then, was the procedure for the County to pay for a portion of retirement and the employee pay a portion?

Attorney Griffin asked, at what point did Sheriff Hill get notification from the retirement system?

Mr. Hill stated, is the employee's lack of action that caused this situation, or is the County's lack of action that caused this situation?

Upon a motion made by Mr. Rouse and a second by Mr. Daughety, this discussion was tabled until further investigation and deliberations can take place.

Mark Pope, Economic Development Director, stated, Kenneth Talton donated a 200,000 square foot warehouse and approximately 26 acres of land to the County of Lenoir in November 2011. At this time I would like the Board to approve the sale of the property for Project Lucille. Project Lucille is ready to move forward and I would like the Board to sign the offer to purchase and contract for the purchase of the property. DuPont legal counsel is preparing the part dealing with the railroad. Mr. Griffin has looked over the agreement and offer to purchase.

Mr. Griffin stated, we need to change the wording from letter of intent, to offer to purchase.

Upon a motion by Mr. Daughety and a second by Ms. Sutton and unanimous approval, the Board moved out of closed session at approximately 5:50 p.m. The meeting re-convened in open session at approximately 5:52 p.m.